

THE
H I S T O R Y
OF
L O R D S T A N T O N.
A N O V E L.

By a Gentleman of the *Middle Temple*,
Author of the TRIAL, or History of CHARLES
HORTON.

I N F O U R V O L U M E S.

V O L. II.

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T H E
H I S T O R Y


O F *R. B. A. S. 22.*

L O R D S T A N T O N.



L E T T E R XXVIII.

To Mr. THOMPSON.

 OUR letter, my good friend,
has given me great uneasiness.
If your heart can be thus
led astray, what will become
of mine? I feel for your situation, and
tremble for my own anticipated mis-
fortunes. Strange power of beauty, that
can lead us in the paths that our judg-
ment and our reason shuns! by so much
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stronger are our passions, and so much more diligent should we be to curb them. Ask me not for advice; you, who can argue so justly on your own involuntary infidelity have no need of advice: the delusion will vanish which blinds you at present, and your former reason and pristine passion will be triumphant: but do not indulge yourself in beholding the too charming Charlotte; your delirium, for so I must call it, will acquire too great a strength to be easily dispelled, and you will be lost.

What fate is reserved for me, I know not. I have obeyed the desire of Sir Edward and Mr. Apgill. I have been diligent in my attendance on Mrs. Adderley. Miss Mitcombe has observed my change, and has forwarded Sir Edward's suit.

"I shall be indebted to you," said he to me, "for the happiness of my future life. The lovely Emily begins to yield—To convince you that she scorns your fickleness,

“ness, and can shew you how much she
 “despises you, is all her design. She hears
 “me with patience, she answers me with
 “kindness, she displays a thousand charms.”

I interrupted him. “Ah, Sir Edward,
 “cease to praise Emily in that manner.
 “My heart is not insensible to the power
 “of her beauty, and I may relapse.”

“You are much happier than I am at
 “present, Benson. You cannot suffer what
 “I may be liable to every moment. I
 “may see her bestow those bewitching
 “smiles upon another that are now lavish-
 “ed on me. I may be again deserted, and
 “consequently more miserable than ever.
 “But I hope to succeed and secure her
 “mine. The widow’s triumph in gaining
 “you is most intolerable to Emily. She
 “will put an end to it in some manner or
 “another, and that end will be favoura-
 “ble to my wishes.”

Asgill interests himself in the success
 of this scheme, and is continually helping

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it forward by artfully praising Mrs. Ad-
 derley, which Emily cannot with any pa-
 tience bear. Sir Edward still shews his
 fondness by taking part in her prejudices,
 and speaking and thinking as she does. Gra-
 titude will induce her to return his affec-
 tion. As for myself, though I am doing
 every thing to give Sir Edward success,
 my situation is awkward. The widow,
 who is indeed to think my attention to her
 proceeds from some other cause than it
 does really, is extremely kind; gives me
 every opportunity of forwarding my suit,
 if I had any to prefer; she receives me
 with pleasure, and parts from me with
 seeming reluctance; she is a fine woman,
 and not deficient in those arts that set off
 a charming person to advantage. I con-
 fess to you, that the hours I spend with
 her are very pleasing to me. Her agreea-
 ble conversation renders them short, and
 I think not of time when I am in her com-
 pany. Shall I tell you that the freedom of
 visiting

visiting her without restraint, and being alone with her, has tempted me to snatch a kiss from her enchanting lips. I cannot refrain from pressing her form, charming and alluring to my panting bosom. She does not take these liberties amiss: it is true, she chides me for my boldness in such a manner as shews she is not displeased when I renew them again. There are more bewitching and inviting qualities in this woman than in Emily Mitcombe. I look on her as

—————The chaste icicle,
That hangs on Diana's temple.—

But the widow Adderley has those irresistible attractions that warm, that invite you to familiarities. Yet, Thompson, credit me, I only mean to be pleased and innocent; and if any base thought could enter in my head, I am too much assured of the widow's virtue to suppose the least degree of success could attend it. I confess that it flatters

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my vanity to see the little freedoms I take well received, and that I am neither repulsed with scorn, or forbidden her presence. This tempts me to renew them.

A messenger from her invites me to her. I must attend the summons—The dear little billet is answered, and I have promised to be with her at the appointed hour. Another interruption! Sir Edward Wilmington—

He is gone!—all joy and rapture—His Emily is now his own; she has consented to become Lady Wilmington—His thanks to me, and expressions of eternal gratitude were without number. May he be happy if she can make him so; but I much fear, when the delirium of passion subsides, that he will not look over those foibles that he now seems regardless of. From the many examples I have read of, and see hourly, I must learn, that marriage rather serves to render the parties more acquainted with their mutual defects, than to increase
their

LORD STANTON.

their fondness for each other. How careful should we be to put the most agreeable cloathing on those defects, lest disgust and hatred should assume the places of tenderness and affection. My assiduities to the widow it seems has given the fair Emily great uneasiness, in thinking that she was preferred to her. The crafty Asgill heightened her chagrin, and she has blessed Sir Edward—Heigh ho!—An involuntary sigh has escaped me, Thompson, and with it is flown the remembrance of Emily's beauty. The widow expects me, and I will banish the thoughts of the former by the agreeable conversation of the latter. Adieu, Thompson, inform me of the minutest accident that befalls you; the struggles of a virtuous heart will give me the best lesson, and afford me the purest instruction. Once more farewell.

GEORGE BENSON.

LETTER XXIX.

To the same.

I Am at length, my dear friend, composed enough to write to you: but how shall I acquaint you with the transactions of the past hours? Would I could recal them! Would to heaven they had never come! Though I sit down with an intention to write to you of those things that most affect me, yet my irresolution is almost superior to my friendship, and I am tempted to throw aside my letter, and bury it and the remembrance of my transgressions in eternal oblivion—Ah, Thompson, that can never happen. Forgetfulness will not come to me, tho' want of recollection would be my greatest happiness: yet it may be better for me that I should remember, that the hourly representation of my guilt should be ever before me, that I may be wise from the experience of torment.

torment. The stories of 'old that made the ghosts of murdered persons haunt those by whose hands they fell, though formerly they did not meet my belief, have now nearly gained credit with me, and I look on myself in the same situation. May the punishments I endure expiate my crime! May repentance purge my guilt away!

How true it is, that the man who boasts security, is nearer ruin than the modest and the humble, who fear it every hour. How insignificant is our pride! How vain is our importance! when the most trifling things in nature will disappoint the one, and totally obliterate the other. How have my reflections humbled me!—How mean, how unworthy am I in my own eyes!—Let my conscious want of every merit, so far plead with you in my favour, that my own sentiments may appear to you a sufficient punishment, that you may not add to it your reproof, which I

fear, or the loss of your esteem, which would be fatal to me.

He only needs the assistance of a kind friend, whose faults, while they cause him to hate himself, make him repose himself in his bosom who feels for, and suffers with him. I want consolation, for my grief is excessive: and yet the lenity with which you are accustomed to treat me, if excited upon this occasion, will but give me a more exquisite sense of my own demerit. I must stand the trial, self-convicted, self-condemned.

I sealed the letter to you, which informed you of my being appointed to drink tea with Mrs. Adderley, and hastened to her apartments. I found her expecting me, yet she was not dressed. An elegant dishabille only served to discover more perfectly the beauties of her charming person. Her excuse for being undressed was a complaint of an indisposition that she had suffered from in the morning, and
which,

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which, having affected her spirits, prevented her dressing to receive me.

“ Though I am concerned to hear of
“ your being ill, yet I cannot but be re-
“ joiced at the opportunity of beholding
“ your beauties, unobscured by dress, in
“ their genuine lustre: for,

Gems and gold, and rich brocade,
Conceal thy charms, my lovely maid.

Her eyes returned me thanks for a compliment, which was really natural, and the true state of my thought at that moment. Those eyes, which then sparkled with unusual vivacity, smiled on me, and, I know not in what manner, most unaccountably alarm'd my heart. I never saw her so delicately charming as at that moment. Her cheek, that was tinged with a faint blush, as I spoke, inspired the tenderest sensations. Her language, that seemed to affect her whole frame, excited pity. It created concern in those that saw

her, but that concern was mixed with the softest ideas, which adjusted and made that impression stronger which her brilliant eyes stamped on the heart. Shall I confess to you that her appearance overcame me, and I found myself in such a situation as I had never experienced before. Her illness gave occasion to ask many questions, and express a concern that would have been too remarkable in any other case, and afforded opportunity to bring in those warm expressions of affection for her, and those good wishes for her speedy restoration to health, which my transported heart dictated. When the tea equipage was removed, we were again left by ourselves. I could not refrain from approaching, and throwing myself on the sofa by her. Her want of spirits brought on a conversation that should help to raise them.

“Will not the news of a wedding help
“to rouse you?” said I.

“It

"It may help—who is to be married, and
"to whom"?

"That is to know every thing at once:
"but you are nearly concerned in it."

"How am I to be concerned?—I don't
"know that I am going to be married."

"You can't tell that—and I hope you
"would have no objection if the question
"was asked you?"

"I am not resolved to be cruel—if I
"liked the man.—But pray tell me—Sup-
"pose that I am going to be married.—
"Don't tease me."

"Suppose your cousin Emily——"

She started, and looking at me atten-
tively for a little time, she entreated me,
with a serious countenance, to be in ear-
nest, and tell her truth.

"Is there any thing improbable in it?"

"No—it is but too probable, too likely
"to happen."

"Do you envy your cousin's happi-
"ness?"

"Cruel

"Cruel wretch," said she, bursting into tears, "do you take delight in tormenting me?"

I looked astonished, nor could I comprehend her meaning. I threw my arms about her, and pressed her to my agitated bosom. I endeavour'd to compose her by the most gentle speeches, and assurances of my regard and esteem.

"But what was the hidden mystery of that discovery of Emily Mitcombe's marriage, which you told me of just now?"

"She is going to be married to Sir Edward Wilmington: piqued at the attention I have paid to you, she banishes all my hopes for ever of her."

"And that grieves you."

"No, it gives me the greatest pleasure."

"And have you left her for me?" demanded she, with a most bewitching smile.

"Will not my conduct determine that? has it not determined it already?"

My

My lips were fastened to hers, and we seemed both entranced. — What shall I say? How shall I tell you that I, enamoured, enraptured, without power or inclination to resist temptation, dared assume the liberties I did; or how she, softened into tenderness, could not oppose or refuse my solicitations. The reign of pleasure was transporting, but it was momentary: and in that instant I was gratified with all that love could ask, or fondness could bestow. Reason and reflection were totally banished, and the indulgence of the sweetest of passions wholly engrossed our attentions; nor were we deaf to the calls of love. While her cheek yet glowed with rapture; while my heart beat high with transport, we were doomed to experience feelings that speedily convinced us of the mutability of human happiness. She started from my arms, which yet held her, from my bosom, on which she yet lean'd, being alarmed by the noise of some persons

ap-

approaching the door. Her servant entered, followed by a gentleman, elegantly dressed, of a most engaging aspect, and finely shaped. As he came in, on the first glimpse of him, she started from her seat, and gazed on him with a peculiar wildness of countenance, without speaking a word. He advanced towards her with an intention to salute her, saying, at the same time, that he had the happiness once more of seeing her, and being able to pay his respects to her. She looked at him with scorn, and turned away without suffering him to salute her. His countenance shewed his disappointment, and he remained silent and abashed before me the witness of his confusion. Mrs. Adderley recollected herself in a little time, and requesting him to sit, seated herself also. Her eyes were fix'd on the ground, and an universal silence prevailed. He at length broke it.

“ I

"I cannot blame you, Madam," says he, "for treating me in this manner, 'tis what I have deserved; but I am now come to atone, by my sincerity, for my former behaviour."

"You should apply to Miss Mitcombe for pardon," said she, interrupting him.

"I have seen her, Madam, and by her means have been informed of your being in town: I have also made her acquainted with my resolutions of waiting on you, and intreating you to accept my hand and fortune, and the services of my future life, as some recompence for my having so unjustly and injuriously slighted you. That resolution I am now come to put in practice, if it shall be so happy as to meet your approbation; and I wish you also to believe, what is really truth, that my heart was never sincerely attached to any other woman but yourself."

Her

Her countenance changed its colour several times during this address, and at the close of it she cast her eyes alternately on me and the stranger. What my sensations were at that moment cannot be described. I felt more than can be believed : but how the unhappy woman could act, still puzzled me.

“ Mr. Southern,” said she, after a long pause, “ from what has already happened, “ I have no right to give credit to any “ thing you can say to me ; and yet I know “ not how to speak to you on your present proposal. It is so long since I “ thought of it, that I am not at present “ prepared to say any thing to it. However, my resolution is taken, and I will “ inform you of it to-morrow.”

“ I shall expect that moment with impatience,” replied he, as he rose from his chair ; and bowing very politely, took his leave.

After

After he had departed, she took two or three turns about the room: whilst I remained silent, ruminating and conjecturing what the event of this scene would be. She did not leave my thoughts long at liberty.

“ That gentleman, Mr. Benson, did me
 “ the honour of addressing me once; my
 “ cousin Emily seduced him from me. He
 “ soon after went abroad, and when he
 “ returned, I know not; but you may
 “ perceive this is the first time I have seen
 “ him since his return home. I once loved
 “ him; but his fickleness almost obliterated my good opinion of him. You
 “ hear the purport of his visit to me, and,
 “ after what has passed, are a judge whether I can, with propriety, receive those
 “ offers. An unhappy passion has blinded
 “ me; a detestable weakness has undone
 “ me.”

I prepared to speak, but she would not hear me.

“ I will

"I will not listen to you now," said she, preventing my words; "I am determined how to act. Perhaps you shall hear from me—Farewell."

She retired to her chamber, and shut herself in: I returned to my lodgings in a very uneasy state of mind. I have hardly room left to tell you, that I am

Your's, sincerely,

G. BENSON.



L E T T E R X X X .

To the same.

YOU may naturally suppose that my thoughts were totally engaged by my late transactions. I considered myself as having done a woman, who appeared to have a regard for me, a most irreparable injury. That by not bridling my headstrong passions, they had carried me to ruin; and that instead of pleasure, or an agreeable

able recollection of what had happened, I found within my bosom the sting of guilt, and an unavailing repentance. I had been the means of depriving a worthy man of his future happiness, and I had destroyed the peace, of a once innocent woman, for ever. One fatal moment of unresisting tenderness has undone us both! Her breast no more than mine can be at ease. Why was I so base as to ask what ought not to be granted? And why was she so weak as not to refuse me? What might have given relief to any other man in my situation, the reflection of its being entirely accidental, and not the consequence of long solicitation and artful seduction, did not serve to quiet the reproaches of my conscience. I considered myself as guilty in taking advantage of her situation: her spirits lower'd by illness; her frame, and temper of body rendered weaker than usual; her nerves having lost their proper tone; and her mind participating in the complaints

complaints and disorders of her person. Was that a moment for me to plunge her in never-ending woe, and to lay up a stock of misery for myself? But my heart, my reason was not consenting; and I suffered under the impulse of my passions, which, at that instant, I could neither regulate or controul. Her tears awakened my compassion: the office of comforter, which I assumed, gave me a greater familiarity with her than I had known before. Desires arose, violent in proportion to the beauty of the object, and the temptations offered me. I fell—and my former presumption of my own integrity but heightens the present sense of my disgrace. Thus shall the proud fall; thus shall the vain be humbled. I sported with danger, and I defied temptation: but the power that has given us passions suffers them to overcome us at some times, to shew the necessity of making use of our reason to curb them when too prevalent, or direct them to
some

some useful or honourable purpose. In self-condemnation did I pass the night, nor did sleep approach my eyes. The light of the morning increased my uneasiness, and I endeavoured to shun the all-seeing eye of day. I rose, and strove to amuse myself by reading: but my distracted thoughts would not suffer me to give any attention to the subjects my books treated of. For it was most grievous to me, to suffer from having done an injury where I intended none; conscious, at the same time, that nothing could have bribed me to be intentionally guilty of the same act. As I was swallowing, per force, some tea, a letter was brought me. The hand-writing was that of Mrs. Adderley. The person that left it declared it required no answer, and went away. My hand trembled when I perceived whence it came: and I laid it on the table, uncertain whether I should open it or no, to meet the reproaches I expected, and which I had so much deserved. At last,

last, with the most disagreeable agitations, I broke the seal, and found these words :

“ Let not the fear of being upbraided,
“ or of finding the reproaches of a wo-
“ man, prevent your reading this letter ;
“ alas ! I am too deeply involved in guilt
“ myself to upbraid you, and all the re-
“ proaches that I might cast on you, would
“ return home to myself. Nor shall you
“ find yourself pestered with disagreeable
“ remonstrances to induce you to do me
“ justice, and shield me from the obloquies
“ and contempt of the world, by making
“ me your wife. On the contrary, your
“ most earnest solicitations should never
“ prevail on me to marry you ; nor would
“ I ever render myself liable to experience
“ either your reflections on my past con-
“ duct, or my own. Thus do I stand
“ when I address you : and tell you that
“ though I am miserable most miserable,
“ as well by your means, as my own
“ im-

“ imprudence, yet, too lovely Benson, my
 “ heart will never suffer the impresson of
 “ your charms to be obliterated. I love
 “ you though you have undone me.

“ I am not so void of all principle to
 “ fly from your embraces, the effects of
 “ passion, and seek for shelter in the arms
 “ of another man who would receive me,
 “ as the person he imagines me to be, pure
 “ and innocent. Pride and honesty for-
 “ bid me, who am contaminated and
 “ guilty, to impose upon his unsuspecting
 “ credulity, and carry a load of crimes to
 “ his bed. The sin of hypocrisy I will
 “ not add to the number of my offences.
 “ I have already informed him of my de-
 “ merit, and absolutely refused ever to
 “ have any communication with him again.
 “ Thus for you I have foregone, wealth,
 “ grandeur, perhaps a title, and a man
 “ whose future good behaviour would have
 “ excused his former treatment of me. I
 “ have even now forgotten him, nor shall

" I ever call him again to my remem-
" brance.

" I have ever considered you, since my
" acquaintance with you, as well as from
" the accounts which my cousin Emily
" gave me in her letters of you, as a man
" possessed of an uncommon goodness of
" heart, but little acquainted in the world.
" My experience has confirmed my obser-
" vation. Your reflections on what has
" past will perhaps embitter your future
" hours, and cast a veil of trouble over
" your days. I will acquit you of the
" greatest part of your guilt, and endea-
" vour to restore to your bosom that
" peace which, nevertheless, I have irrec-
" verably lost. This is to be done by fix-
" ing the degree of offence. Know then,
" that my business to London was to se-
" cure you from my cousin, who loved
" you, and who imagined you loved her.
" She had acted the same part before with
" regard to me and Mr. Southern. My
" revenge

"revenge was gratified when I saw you
 "forsake her for me. I flattered myself,
 "that your affection for me was the cause
 "of the change. I indulged myself in the
 "pleasing hope of being yours. A nearer
 "acquaintance with you created, and eve-
 "ry hour increased a passion to which I
 "could set no bounds. You know the
 "consequences—and as that passion will
 "still exist to torment me, I must endure
 "the misery of harbouring it without the
 "most distant probability of its being re-
 "turned or gratified. I cannot suppose
 "that you will despise me, nor can I hope
 "that you will love me. Only think well
 "of me: esteem me as a woman who had
 "not strength enough to resist the attacks
 "of a violent passion; the first step of which
 "was indiscretion, and the next, ruin to
 "herself. By thus exculpating you, and
 "taking the crime on myself, I give you
 "the strongest proofs of my regard for
 "you; and yet what I assert is but too
 "true;

“ true ; for the indulgence of my vengeance has brought misery on myself.

“ I can receive no answer from you, for
 “ I leave this behind me to be delivered after
 “ my departure, nor will you ever hear
 “ more from me ; for I will dedicate the remainder
 “ of my life to penitence and retirement ; where, though I can forget
 “ you, it will increase the fervor of my repentance
 “ ever to have thought of you. I trust that I shall hereafter find that repose
 “ which I now so much want ; but many
 “ will be my days of woe, and numberless
 “ will be the hours of wretchedness ere that
 “ arrives. Farewell, dearest youth : farewell
 “ for ever. Think sometimes with compassion,
 “ on the frail, the weak, and unhappy,

“ ARAB. ADDERLEY.”

I can assure you my tumults were not composed,
 nor did my agitations subside reading this letter. Had it been possible to
 have

have seen or even written to the fair writer, I know not what I might have done in the first emotions of my heart. There was a generosity and spirit in her epistle that shewed the goodness of her sentiments, and a liberal way of thinking. It made the occasion of writing it occur more strongly than ever to my remembrance: And tho' she would endeavour to excuse me, I could not excuse myself.

"Bitter will be the reflections of your future days, unhappy woman, and melancholy will be the hours of your repentance! But the tear of contrition shall wash my cheek, and the sigh of penitence shall heave my bosom. So may we both attain the end we wish, and peaceful repose attend us both."

Thus I exclaimed in the fulness of my heart. The tears dropped from my eyes, which were fixed on the letter that lay open before me. At that moment Apgill entered. He saw the distress of my situation,

ation, and it alarmed him. I snatched up the letter at his entrance, and put it into my pocket hastily.

“ I have interrupted you,” said he. “ If you have any thing to do in private, or would rather be alone, tell me, and I will retire directly.”

“ No, Mr. Afgill, the society of a friend will be a relief to me.”

“ Have you any bad news from your family, which causes this distress? I hope your affliction is not caused by the death of any friend.”

“ It is not.”

“ I am glad of it, for that of all other losses is the most difficult to be remedied, or replaced. It may be not impertinent to enquire the cause of your uneasiness.”

I remained silent.

“ Perhaps,” said he, “ you repent the part you have acted in favour of Sir Edward Wilmington, and wish again to have

"have an opportunity of addressing Emily Mitcombe."

"You totally mistake. On the contrary I am heartily rejoiced that she is thus disposed of."

"She is to be married the beginning of the next week."

"So much the better."

"What does the widow say to this match?"

At the question an involuntary sigh forced its way.

"What, you have escaped from Miss Mitcombe, and Mrs. Adderley has caught you? Come, don't look so melancholy. She will have pity on you. You may do what you will with her when you please."

"You have a worse opinion of her than she deserves."

"Not a bit. I'll be hanged if you have not had a quarrel with her, and she is playing you some trick or another."

"But I will go pay her a visit, and reconcile you to her."

"You may spare yourself the trouble, she has left town."

"And that letter which you was so industrious to hide, was a farewell from her. Come, come, all will be well yet."

He proceeded to tell me, on my making him no answer, that he was at Sir Thomas's the preceding day, where a gentleman, just returned from abroad, came to ask Miss Mitcombe after Mrs. Adderley; and that she, as she declared afterwards, sent him to her apartments in hopes of discovering me there.

"Whether she succeeded or no, you must know better than I."

"But too well, indeed!" replied I, in the anguish of my heart; and not being able to stop myself, gave him an opportunity of unravelling the whole affair. I bound him to secrecy, and shewed him
her

her letter. He seemed by no means affected either with it, or my behaviour on the occasion.

“Why should I not grieve? Have not I destroyed the peace of her future life? have not I ruined her repose?”

“Pho, pho, never mind that: if you have no greater sins to answer for than this, you will be innocent indeed.”

“Do not endeavour to deceive me! I am very miserable on her account.”

“The greater fool you. When you come to know the world as well as I do, and have had the same bitter experience of the sex, you will think as I do, and perceive on this occasion that you have been the dupe of her artifice, and trapped by the appearance and generosity that runs thro’ this letter: but you will find that you were what she confesses, the object of her passion whom she could not resist or refuse, especially where she indulged herself at the same time. She acknowledges it was

“ not regard to you, but revenge to her
“ cousin that first induced her to wish to ap-
“ pear agreeable in your eyes, or made her
“ strive to render herself pleasing to you.
“ To satiate her vengeance she would have
“ gone any lengths, and would have made
“ no scruple of sacrificing her person to have
“ effected her designs. You happen to have
“ obtained it cheaper, and have not been
“ laid under any obligation, as the matter
“ appears to have been entirely accidental
“ on your side, though I cannot believe from
“ the circumstances of the story, but the
“ whole was designed on hers. The sex are
“ all alike, the same passions rule them all.
“ Their cunning supplies the place of sense;
“ hypocrisy, of prudence; and the lowest
“ artifices are substituted in the room of the
“ noblest virtues. Slaves to passions they
“ are afraid or ashamed to avow, from
“ the censure and malevolence of the
“ world, but principally of their own
“ part of creation, they act eternally in
“ opposition

“opposition to their feelings; and that con-
 “straint, so well supported, is made a merit of
 “by our foolish sex, who look upon it as the
 “highest perfection in them to possess a ne-
 “gative virtue by not being vicious. You
 “have told me the cause of your present
 “uneasiness, and I will unfold to you the
 “causes on which I ground my opinion.”

I must defer continuing Mr. Asgill's ac-
 count for want of room. Adieu, my good
 friend,

GEORGE BENSON.



L E T T E R. XXXI.

TO GEORGE BENSON, Esq.

YOU caution me to avoid Charlotte,
 my worthy friend, but you do not
 consider my situation. How can I shun
 her who supports my existence? how can
 I fly from her who is the only comfort of
 my life? The bearded arrow is lodged

in my breast, and to eradicate it will pull my heart-strings with it. Miserable state that mine is! where I act every moment in contradiction to my reason, but in obedience to my passions—Passions so intoxicating, so bewitching, that I cannot resist their influence. I follow Charlotte's steps involuntarily—I gaze on her without design, and adore her without intending it. This serves to shew the entire possession she has of me. If I endeavour to absent myself from her, I am restless, and uneasy till I see her again—No study, no amusement can supply the place of Charlotte. She, lovely innocent! ever attentive to please, to delight, though without being conscious of the power of her charms, increases my love every moment. But what would the gentle breast of Louisa suffer if she knew my defection? Ah! she could not feel more than I do now, nor endure more torments than I do from a sense of my own demerit. Yet I can
partly

partly judge what woes would afflict her, and the quality of them from what passes in my own bosom; that is, if she were to know that another had deprived her of my affection. I pity her therefore from the comparison of our situations; but, her ignorance of my falsehood saves her from pangs too terrible to be supported; and me from the additional misery of her reproaches, alas! too well grounded.

Charlotte could not be in this country without being noticed, I should rather say adored. She has been seen at church; and all eyes were turned upon her. Mrs. Rogers, the wife of a neighbouring gentleman of a genteel and independent fortune, and his daughter, saw and admired her. They were acquainted with my mother, and paid her a visit, in order to set an acquaintance on foot between the young people. The design succeeded: and Miss Rogers, who is much about Charlotte's age, conceived the greatest friendship

friendship for her. Their house is not far from ours, and the girls used to see one another frequently. Mr. Rogers was, at the time his daughter became acquainted with Charlotte, settling his younger son to a merchant in London; the elder was at Oxford. He lately returned home, and hearing his sister speak so loudly in Charlotte's praise, was wild to see her. He teased her to pay her friend a visit, and give him an opportunity of accompanying her. She complied with his desires: and during my illness, which I gave you an account of before, Miss Rogers came to see my mother, making her concern for my health the cause of the visit. He then saw her, and if the sight of the lovely maid cannot fail of creating some extraordinary emotions in the coldest heart; what must the appearance of so much perfection have caused the warmth of youth to feel? He saw, he worshipped the star of love, the brightest amidst a thousand constellations!

tions ! I had heard of his being here, but had never seen him, nor did the cause of his coming enter into my head till the other day I saw them together ; the first direction of his eyes towards her, told me all the wishes of his heart. The discovery struck me to the soul, and I then began to consider the object of my fears ; for such he is to me, or any other person who could attempt to gain Charlotte's affection. Oh my friend ! he was every thing to fear ! His person genteel, his conversation lively, his manners agreeable. The heir to an happy independence, to a genteel sufficiency, what might he not pretend to ? what could he not effect with any woman he pleased to make proposals to ? I need not tell you that I looked on him with the eyes of a rival, and that while my apprehensions on the one hand increased his good qualities, my envy on the other detracted from his merit. His politeness and good-nature rendered him assiduous

fiduous in his endeavours to make himself agreeable to us all, particularly to me. With a brutality, till this moment I thought foreign to my nature, I shuned his proffered friendship, repulsed all the advances he made towards an intimacy with me; but by making myself odious I have not damped his passion; and, what is more important, I dread having discovered my own; that is a step that I would not take for any consideration. She, whose innocence of heart, and native purity must detest all double-dealing, all hypocrisy, would abhor a wretch who could falsify his vows, and forsake the heart he won by his assiduities and pretended passion; and yet transfer that passion to another.

I was fullen in Mr. Rogers's company—I wished him absent; but I dared not leave him with Charlotte. My presence, thought I, will be a check on him; he will not be able to address her in the manner he wishes or intends; and if he should steal
upon

upon her heart, I shall be able to see what progress he makes. Her civilities to him, which were only the result of her natural complacency, gave me uneasiness. Not a look of her escaped me: and if her eyes even strayed towards him, I felt the most poignant anguish. His modesty prevented his saying much; but what he utter'd was expressed with good sense and politeness. Oh, my friend, he is too amiable—He must win her, and I—must be undone.

I have this instant received your letter. I have read it with attention, and now only begin to see the horrors of my situation. If you could thus turn aside, and do a deed that urges you to repentance, what may not my weakness be liable to? Where may not my passions carry me? I suffer with you, I feel for you—Ah, return my affection, advise me what to do, how to regulate my actions—Without skill, without experience am I exposed to the tempest of my passions—Who shall direct, who
can

can extricate me from the perils that environ me?—I fear to do that which I ought not, and am hourly in danger of it. I dread deviating from the road of virtue, and yet every step I take seems to lead me from the strait path which I should follow—The smallest declination from a right line in a short progress increases till the distance becomes visible and notorious, almost inconceivable—So it is in our morals—We know not where the smallest error may seduce us, nor whither the commission of one crime may tend. Adieu. I can write no more.

Yours ever,

J. THOMPSON.



L E T T E R. XXXII.

To Mr. THOMPSON.

I Have had patience and resolution enough, Thompson, to sit down and begin to give you Asgill's history, and to continue it.

it. Though it is long and tedious, yet it has been serviceable to me in more ways than one; first from the employment and consequent amusement that the recapitulation of his story afforded my mind, and thereby blunted the poignancy of my own misfortunes. The other arose from the selfish consideration of my own superiority, when I reflected, that he had been more unhappy than I have hitherto been. This is a natural, though I cannot call it a laudable sensation; but a companion in misfortune lightens our burden, and we carry it with more tranquility when we are not unhappy alone.

"As I was sensible," said he, "my memory would not enable me to tell you the occurrences of my life in common conversation, and having made you a kind of promise to relate it to you, I have written it out, and will, if agreeable, read it to you."

I in-

I informed him it would be highly so, and obliging me greatly. He proceeded thus :

“ I may be called the first-born of disappointment and misfortune: For the
 “ causes of the subsequent disasters of my
 “ life commenced soon after I was born.
 “ My father who had a small estate, when
 “ he married my mother, agreed verbally
 “ that the survivor should take all. This
 “ he was tempted to do as well from the
 “ greatness of his affection for her, as the
 “ expectation of inheriting the whole wealth
 “ of an uncle she had, whose presumptive
 “ heir my mother was. The first fruit
 “ of their union was myself; and my father
 “ received me, as he since told me,
 “ as a blessing from heaven; a son he
 “ wished for, and a son he had. My mother
 “ too seemed equally happy; and their
 “ joy and satisfaction prognosticated a continuance
 “ of the harmony in which they
 “ had hitherto lived. The old man too on
 “ whom

"whom they had a dependance, and to
 "whom upon that account they looked up
 "with eyes of adoration, was extremely well
 "pleased at my appearance, and had made
 "them a considerable present at the solemnity
 "of my christening, standing a sponsor at the same time, and gave very
 "strong intimations of his designs to do
 "something extraordinary for me. My
 "father, who loved me with a paternal
 "fondness, though so young an infant,
 "was greatly rejoiced at the prospect of
 "my future fortune, which he already in
 "his sanguine imagination deemed complete,
 "from these hints, which he looked upon
 "as good as absolute promises. When
 "I was about four months old, an accident
 "happened which put an end to these
 "dreams of prosperity that he had been
 "so long forming. A quarrel arose between
 "my father and mother upon some
 "very trivial occasion. It is natural for
 "each of the contesting parties to endeavour
 "your

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" your to make their side good. Each
 " puts in practice the most likely method,
 " and every recrimination that malice and
 " a thorough acquaintance with each others
 " foibles could suggest, was made use of
 " on this occasion ; and the breach became
 " so wide at last, that there was no stop-
 " ping it. As I was unfortunately the
 " foundation of the rupture, and my fa-
 " ther expressed his regard for me in the
 " course of it, it was sufficient to alienate
 " my mother's affections from me, tho'
 " intirely innocent. It may be necessary
 " here to give you some idea of their re-
 " spective characters. My father was a
 " weak, indolent, good-natured man, of
 " a friendly disposition, and in the main
 " had good intentions; but they availed him
 " very little when he wanted resolution to
 " carry them into practice, or to maintain his
 " opinions, whenever he ventured to acknow-
 " ledge that he had any. He had tolerable
 " natural parts, but unimproved by educa-
 " tion ; and a satirical vein, which he would
 " frequently

“ frequently indulge, not out of ill-nature,
 “ but because his thoughts happened to
 “ run in that strain, was one of the most
 “ distinguishing marks of his character.
 “ My mother was a woman, fond and lov-
 “ ing when she was pleased, and resentful
 “ and implacable when she was offended,
 “ which was not difficult to effect. De-
 “ sirous of rule, and aiming at it every
 “ moment, no little republic was ever
 “ more cautious or watchful in observing
 “ the motions of an ambitious king, a
 “ neighbour, than she was in taking care
 “ her husband should not incroach upon
 “ her prerogative. As this was the first
 “ time that ever he attempted to have a
 “ will of his own, she was much shocked
 “ at such an unnatural rebellion from her
 “ established government, and therefore
 “ made use of every means in her power to
 “ reduce him to his pristine servitude :
 “ when threats, and talking loud would
 “ not avail, recourse was had to those ar-
 “ guments

“guments of the sex that seldom fail,
“tears and persuasion. These were of
“as little weight as the former, and my
“father, unfortunately for me, discovered
“a spice of obstinacy in his disposition,
“that he had never displayed before.
“When my mother found that her own
“forces were not strong enough to conquer him, she very prudently thought
“of forming some alliance that might assist her effectually in the reduction of her
“husband. Her uncle was the most natural
“ally, and she spent the night after their
“contest in contriving the most plausible
“method of introducing her story to him.
“As she possessed in common with the
“rest of her sex an happy and fertile invention, she soon formed a tale in her
“own head, which bore the greatest appearance of truth from its plausibility;
“and what served her purpose still more
“was, that it had its foundation in facts
“that were incontrovertible. My uncle
“was

" was an old bachelor, positive, self-opi-
 " nionated, fond of flattery consequently,
 " and totally impatient of contradiction.
 " To him then did my mother go, and
 " tell her tale ; but it was not *a round un-*
 " *varnish'd tale* that she delivered. On
 " the contrary, whenever there was occa-
 " sion of inserting any little matter to
 " explain her story, or elucidate it in eve-
 " ry manner to serve her own purpose, it
 " was properly done ; nor were there any
 " deficiencies in the manner of relating it
 " that could have given rise to any suspi-
 " cion concerning her veracity. As my fa-
 " ther had thrown out some reflections on
 " my uncle's assiduities in the course of the
 " dispute, his wife carefully reported them,
 " conceiving that would be the surest me-
 " thod to influence him in her behalf.
 " She was not deceived : the old man was
 " personally offended at the freedom, and
 " what was worse, the justice of his re-
 " marks ; but, on the other hand, it flat-

“tered his vanity to be made the media-
“tor of this matrimonial dispute; and ac-
“cordingly, contrary to all the rules of
“impartiality and equity that a judge
“should be governed by, he openly ef-
“poused my mother’s quarrel, and went with
“an avowed intention of making my father
“do his niece justice. She returned with
“him, and found the victim of their re-
“spective designs in one of those sullen
“moods, which a man generally falls into
“after having maintained an unsuccessful
“conflict. Never could the old gentle-
“man have hit upon a more unlikely time
“than that to convince him, that he was
“a fool and a rogue, which was the chief
“design of the conference. My father
“would hear nothing of it. My uncle
“went away more enraged than he came,
“and my mother remained in the pouts.
“In a little time my father’s anger sub-
“sided, and at night he would willingly
“have been friends again with his wife;
“but

“ but that offer of pacification she wisely
 “ rejected, for she found, if matters were
 “ left in their present situation, it might
 “ occasion another battle to gain the vic-
 “ tory; she therefore thought that as the
 “ affair was now in agitation, it was better
 “ for both parties to have it settled at once,
 “ to avoid any other disputes, and to pre-
 “ vent for the future the effusion of chri-
 “ stian matrimonial language. She re-
 “ tired to another bed; for the sense of her
 “ wrongs, as she herself expressed it, was so
 “ great, that she could not think of sleep-
 “ ing by the side of a man who had treat-
 “ ed her so ill. My father let her indulge
 “ herself, nor did he once attempt to per-
 “ swade her to alter her resolution, but
 “ marched very quietly to his solitary bed,
 “ and perhaps would have been very well sa-
 “ tisfied if he had enjoyed it so for the rest
 “ of his life; but whatever his thoughts
 “ were, he concealed them. While they
 “ were thus enjoying themselves, my un-

“cle was contriving a method how to
“plague my father more if possible. Af-
“ter some consideration, he hit upon the
“most effectual way, and that was by
“making his neice independent of the
“husband. He accordingly sent for an
“attorney, and altered his will, by which he
“left all his fortune in my mother’s power,
“without the control or dominion of her
“husband; directed her receipts to be
“taken for the rents, without his inter-
“meddling; and that all her acts, though
“a married woman, should be sufficient
“for disposing of it in what manner she
“pleased. As this proceeding satisfied his
“vengeance, and the antipathy he had to
“my father, he congratulated himself on
“the good effects of his prudence, and
“looking to futurity, prophesied how they
“would behave themselves to each other
“by his partial disposal of his wealth; and
“he rejoiced heartily in the torment his
“neice would give her husband. As it

“ took up a long time to look so far for-
 “ ward and to enjoy the dissensions that his
 “ bequest was likely to occasion, he was
 “ obliged to drink an additional pint of
 “ Madeira, to enable him to see the mat-
 “ ter clearly. This, though it raised his
 “ spirits, elevated his imagination, and
 “ brought all his schemes to maturity while
 “ he was drinking it, yet it was attended
 “ with a small inconvenience which, with
 “ all his prescience, he had not skill enough
 “ to foresee; and which put an end to all
 “ his reflections in a very short time. It is
 “ a very natural consequence for a man who
 “ has drank too much to be intoxicated:
 “ this was the case with my poor uncle,
 “ who, when he had got half way up stairs
 “ to bed, fell backwards, and was taken
 “ up by his servants, who were summoned
 “ to his assistance by the noise of his fall,
 “ having received a large contusion in the
 “ head, which rendered him speechless, and
 “ deprived him of his senses. Next morn-
 “ ing my mother was sent for, and found

“ him in a very deplorable condition, nor
“ was he able to inform her of the altera-
“ tion he had made in his affairs, which
“ would then have given them both the
“ greatest satisfaction they were capable
“ of receiving. Indeed, I cannot help
“ thinking that the grief she expressed on
“ the occasion, was caused by the reflec-
“ tion that he had not time to do as he
“ promised her he would.

“ He did not remain long in his tor-
“ ment: the next day numbered him with
“ his fathers. As my mother was esteem-
“ ed his heiress, her grief was very proper
“ on the melancholy event; but when she
“ found how he had disposed of his effects,
“ her gratitude to the memory of so good
“ an uncle made her more clamorous than
“ ever. Whatever her outward deport-
“ ment might be, she inwardly triumphed
“ in the success of her negotiation; and
“ now she had only to think of the means
“ of reaping the benefit of it. As my
“ father

“ father was esteemed in the world for his
 “ sociable qualities, his acquaintance, which
 “ were numerous, would not fail of talk-
 “ ing loudly of any indiscretion she might
 “ be guilty of if she quitted him ; be-
 “ sides, she could not so well withdraw
 “ herself from the comfort and consol-
 “ tion of matrimony without some sufficient
 “ cause being assigned : And as she imagin-
 “ ed she might now assume the sovereign au-
 “ thority whenever she pleased, she deter-
 “ mined to return home. Her conclusions
 “ were very just : for she was a notable
 “ prudent woman, and she found my fa-
 “ ther, who, if he obtained his ease, car’d
 “ for no more, very willing to put on any
 “ fetters which she prepared for him. A
 “ new treaty of domestic alliance was im-
 “ mediately set on foot, and I was to be
 “ sacrificed to their future happiness. Their
 “ late acquisition of fortune enabled them
 “ to cut a greater figure in the world, and
 “ I was sent to nurse to be out of the way.

“ I have heard my father say, that it was
“ with a great deal of reluctance he con-
“ sented to this step, but it was a *sine quâ*
“ *non*, and he was obliged to be pacified.
“ As he himself informed me of these
“ transactions, I have imprinted his rela-
“ tion in my memory, and it has often em-
“ ployed my thoughts. He was the only
“ parent I knew for a long time; for he
“ used to visit me frequently at my nurse’s,
“ though generally by stealth, and always
“ brought something with him for me. I
“ therefore cannot help remembering him
“ with gratitude and love. My nurse too,
“ who had learned many particulars from
“ my father’s servants, frequently informed
“ me of what passed in his family when I
“ was capable of understanding them; and
“ used to tell me that I had more sense
“ than all the rest of the family: but that
“ was only indulging her partiality for
“ me. In due time my mother brought
“ forth another son, who was the eldest
“ born

“born in her affection, for him she only
“loved or cared for. Two daughters were
“born afterwards, the eldest of which only
“lived. I was full twelve years old before
“I became acquainted in my own family ;
“and then I was taught to look up to
“my mother as a lady that had nothing
“to say to me. I was dressed in the
“plainest cloaths, while my brother was
“indulged in all the childish finery that
“could please him. Instead of gaining
“upon my mother by seeing her frequent-
“ly, I grew worse and worse every day.
“My clownish behaviour, for I was still
“with the woman that nursed me ; my
“rude health, and other circumstances
“which the goodness of my constitution
“rendered natural to me, were construed
“into crimes against me ; and my brother
“who was constantly opposed to me for
“his good qualities, and set up as a pat-
“tern for my imitation, was the pride of
“her heart, possessed of every virtue, and
D 5 “instructed

“instructed by the best masters. This
“could not fail of giving my little heart,
“which was even at that tender age suscep-
“tible of jealousy, a great deal of pain.
“I conceived an antipathy against him,
“that to this hour, for he still lives, I
“cannot overcome. I hated my rival in
“my brother, who consequently could
“not avoid despising me, whom he heard
“constantly abused and depreciated be-
“fore him. He ever treated me with an air
“of contempt and superiority, which at
“that hour I thought intolerable. This
“had like to have been productive of
“much ill to him, and misery to me.
“For being during one Christmas holidays
“at home, I found an opportunity of be-
“ing alone with him, and he taunting me
“with his superior qualifications, as he
“was accustomed and encouraged to do,
“I fell upon him, and having much the
“advantage of him in strength, and also
“being a year older, I must confess I tri-
“ed

"ed to destroy him. I am now sorry for
 " the attempt, but it was then my design,
 " which I would have effected if I could,
 " and have often wondered since how
 " such a notion came into my head. How-
 " ever bad my designs were, I was ex-
 " tremely unskilful in the execution of
 " them. He received a couple of black
 " eyes, and a sound beating from me, be-
 " fore his cries summoned a servant to his
 " assistance; who rescued him from me,
 " threatening me at the same time with my
 " mother's vengeance. Indeed, after such
 " a violent outrage upon the person of her
 " favourite, I could not look upon the
 " house as any place of security, and there-
 " fore had cunning enough to make my
 " escape before she returned home, for she
 " was luckily abroad at that time. My
 " nurse, to whose arms I fled for shelter,
 " confirmed me in the opinion I had taken,
 " of suffering by my mother's severity in
 " case she had caught me; and a servant
 D 6 " of

“ of my father’s, who was sent by him
“ in search of me there in the evening,
“ brought an account of her rage and me-
“ naces of vengeance against me if ever
“ she could lay hands on me. As that
“ was the most likely place to find me, I
“ was removed from thence, and convey-
“ ed to her sister’s house, and from thence
“ sent to school as a relation of her’s.
“ Whether it was from the ill treatment
“ of my mother, or whether it was a qua-
“ lity that providence implanted in my dis-
“ position, I know not; but, I was ac-
“ customed to argue from causes, and draw
“ conclusions in my own mind, in such a
“ manner as very few boys ever think of
“ doing, or indeed have occasion to do.
“ I was placed at a very good school, where
“ there were many children of great fami-
“ lies; some not superior to my own; but
“ the fear of my mother’s discovering me,
“ induced my friends to change my name
“ to that I now bear, which is not the
“ name

“ name of my family, and at the same
 “ time they charged me not to reveal the
 “ secret. This was a caution they needed
 “ not to have given me, for I was tired of
 “ bearing a name that brought me no
 “ good as I saw. My misfortunes, which
 “ even then I was sensible of, made me
 “ reserved and proud: that pride made
 “ me wish to see myself respected, for con-
 “ tempt was intolerable to me. I could
 “ not acquire any notice by my station,
 “ which rendered me ridiculous among the
 “ boys from the supposed meanness of my
 “ connexion. I was obliged to earn ap-
 “ plause; and therefore every boy, whom
 “ I could venture to engage with, felt the
 “ effects of my rage. What I could not
 “ then compass by my mental qualifica-
 “ tions, or the wealth of my family, I ac-
 “ complished by my desperate actions and
 “ eternal battles. I was in a short time
 “ the bully of the lower school, and I had
 “ attacked some of my seniors not with-
 “ out

“ out acquiring reputation. In about two
“ years I found myself held in great esteem,
“ and like the warlike heroes of antiquity
“ I exposed my person to danger to gain
“ applause. What greatly contributed to
“ the perfect indifference with which I en-
“ countered opposition, was the treatment
“ of my master. When I was placed un-
“ der his care, he had orders not to spare
“ the rod, and spoil the child; this direc-
“ tion was so pleasing to him, that he most
“ punctually obeyed it. I happened, very
“ unfortunately for myself, to be placed in
“ a class where there were a great many
“ favourite children of indulgent parents,
“ like my younger brother; but as they
“ were not to suffer upon any account,
“ there was no method of inspiring them
“ with terror when they had been idle and
“ negligent, than by shewing them what
“ they deserved by some suitable example.
“ The nearer the danger is to ourselves the
“ more dreadful it is to us. I generally
“ was

" was the person who was pitched upon as
 " the example of my master's severity, and
 " though sometimes my idleness might
 " merit correction, I was always sure to
 " meet punishment; other hardships I
 " might struggle with and escape from,
 " but this was inevitable. I therefore gave
 " myself very little trouble to do any bu-
 " siness, and trusted chiefly to my natural
 " abilities which were tolerably good, and
 " at length established me beyond the ty-
 " rant's power. However, I owe to this
 " conduct my patience in sufferings, and an
 " invincible perseverance that has seldom for-
 " saken me through life. My father still
 " contrived methods of seeing me frequent-
 " ly: and as I grew up and began to shew signs
 " of sense and reflection, he would lament
 " with tears the unhappy situation of his fa-
 " mily, which would not permit him to take
 " me home and shew his affection for me;
 " but such was his dread of his wife's vio-
 " lence of temper, that he feared for my
 " life

“ life if ever I got into her power. He
“ always supplied me liberally with mo-
“ ney, and promised to do every thing in
“ his power for me. In his visits to me,
“ if I may call them so, for he always
“ sent for me to a tavern or coffee-house,
“ and not twice to the same house, he
“ mentioned my sister, who he said was
“ also neglected upon account of her bro-
“ ther; that she loved and had often spoke
“ of me to him with the greatest concern,
“ and complained much of not being al-
“ lowed to see me. I requested he would in-
“ dulse me with the sight of the only one
“ in the family, except himself, whom I
“ could call my friend. He told me he
“ had been long thinking of it, and that
“ previous to my going to the university
“ he would let me see her. That time
“ was approaching; it was soon after set-
“ tled, and I waited with impatience to
“ see my sister. She came along with my
“ father. I embraced her with tears—
“ my

" my affection for her was at that instant
 " one of the strongest, and at the same time
 " the tenderest sensation I had ever experienced
 " in my life. My poor father
 " mingled his tears with ours. After a
 " short stay, he was obliged to return
 " with his daughter to prevent suspicion,
 " and in her presence promised to meet
 " me again in that place, to see me once
 " more. I agreed to meet him, and parted
 " with my sister with reluctance. My
 " reflections were very melancholy for one
 " of my years: to know my parents, know
 " them wealthy, to be the eldest son, and
 " by the custom of my country heir to
 " their fortunes, yet to see myself, without
 " having deserved such a punishment, an
 " out-cast, and obliged to be known by
 " another name; to see my sister whom I
 " first loved for her merits, afraid to call
 " me brother!—my stubbornness was not
 " proof to this unmerited severity, and I
 " spent a great part of the night in tears.

" Among

“ Among the other things which entered into
“ my head, I determined to propose to my
“ father, when I saw him the succeeding
“ evening, to go of my own accord, and throw
“ myself at my mother’s feet, and endeavour
“ to deprecate her anger. Full of this notion
“ I painted to myself, with the vanity in-
“ herent in a young heart, that she would
“ be melted with my tears and supplica-
“ tions, and that she would receive me in-
“ to favour again. I anticipated in my
“ sanguine imagination the sweets of so de-
“ lightful a reconciliation, and enjoyed
“ the pleasing union in idea, that should
“ restore me to my friends and family,
“ and that I should call and be called the
“ tender names of father, mother, bro-
“ ther, sister, and son. This delusion soon
“ ended. About two o’clock of that day,
“ wherein I was preparing to meet my fa-
“ ther and propose the scheme to him that
“ my heart was so full of, a letter was put
“ into my hand, by a man who told me
“ he

" he must have an answer. The writing
 " was that of my father, and I broke the
 " seal with a trembling hand. The con-
 " tents of the letter acquainted me that
 " my sister, in hopes of gaining favour
 " with her mother, had revealed the cir-
 " cumstances of their meeting me the even-
 " ing before, and his promise to do so
 " again" this evening; that it had enraged
 " my mother to such a degree, that she
 " had threatened me with the worst treat-
 " ment, and he was apprehensive she had
 " sent persons to watch me if I should go
 " to the coffee-house we had proposed to
 " meet at; that he had enclosed me a bank
 " bill for fifty pounds, and advised me to go
 " for Oxford as soon as possible; and that
 " he would contrive some means of cor-
 " responding with me, and informed me
 " where I should direct my letters for
 " him.

" At the conclusion of it he lamented
 " his own folly, in the most pathetic terms,
 " in

“ in submitting himself to the caprice and
“ tyranny of his wife ; but very honestly
“ confessed, that he was incapable of break-
“ ing from the yoke which he had worn
“ so long and born so quietly. I sent
“ word by his messenger that I would
“ write to him in the evening, and leave
“ it at a particular house. My answer was
“ dictated by duty and affection. I im-
“ parted to him the scheme my head was
“ full of, and asked his opinion concern-
“ ing it ; however, I told him I would de-
“ fer the execution of it till I had his ap-
“ probation, and would take his advice by
“ leaving town immediately. I procured
“ recommendations, and went for Oxford
“ directly, and was entered in ——— col-
“ lege. Here I first, and I may say, on-
“ ly knew what tranquility was. I look
“ back with pleasure to the moments of
“ peace I experienced in that situation.
“ It lasted but for two years, and then my
“ adverse fate began again to persecute
“ me

“ me with fresh violence. My father had
“ ever taken care to supply me liberally
“ with money during my residence at the
“ university. I had in that time stolen once
“ up to town, and been indulged with an
“ interview with him. He then mention-
“ ed to me that he had a relation in a dis-
“ tant part of England with whom he had
“ dropped all correspondence for many
“ years, but as I had no nearer relation,
“ my own family excepted, he would write
“ to him, and inform him that I intended
“ to pay him a visit in the long vacation.
“ And some time after I received a let-
“ ter from my cousin Mr. Harper, inviting
“ me to his house with great friendship
“ and cordiality. This was seconded by
“ one from my father, who advised me
“ to comply with his invitation; and ac-
“ cordingly I prepared to visit him at the
“ proper season. My father and he were
“ cousin-germans, and had been very in-
“ timate in their younger days; but my
“ mother,

“ mother, who disliked Mr. Harper’s
 “ shrewd remarks, and frequent applica-
 “ tions to my father to wear the breeches
 “ himself, as he termed it, persuaded her
 “ husband to break off all connections with
 “ such a brute, who was always endea-
 “ vouring to sow dissention between man
 “ and wife. The same power which forced
 “ him to sacrifice me, made him give up
 “ his cousin, and they had dropped all
 “ connection for some years: my intended
 “ visit made them renew it, and Mr. Har-
 “ per received me with much hospitality
 “ and kindness.

“ He was about his fiftieth year, a hale,
 “ hearty country gentleman, possessed of
 “ a very good fortune, and had as much
 “ sense as enabled him to transact the ordi-
 “ nary business of a justice of the peace,
 “ punish vagabonds, and preside at a quar-
 “ ter sessions. He had three sons, and two
 “ daughters, who were really handsome in
 “ their persons, and pleasing in their man-
 “ ners,

ners, being formed by the example of
their mother, who was a modest prudent
woman; and had she been otherwise, she
would have had but little opportunity of
shewing the forwardness of her temper,
for her husband had such exalted notions
of the prerogative of the male sex, that
she would have found it a very hard mat-
ter to have made him relinquish any of his
rights and privileges. His fundamental
maxim was, that women were born to
obey, and all his behaviour to them
tended to enforce that grand point. His
wife was like my father, tamed into obe-
dience, and therefore never thought of
ruling, tho' I cannot help saying that the
reins of government were not in the most
proper hands at my cousin's house. His
sons were like himself, except the eldest,
who was fond of the improvement of
his mind, and expected to receive ad-
vantages from my visit to him, which
his father's singularity of temper denied
him.

“ him. The second was a farmer, who
“ managed all the land his father retained
“ in his own hands, who praised and com-
“ mended him as a managing, industrious,
“ thriving lad. The third was a sports-
“ man, who was a bright boy in his fa-
“ ther’s eye. The eldest he loved sin-
“ cerely, but thought that he would be
“ soon too knowing for him, and have
“ more sense than he had. He therefore
“ conceived a jealousy of his abilities, and
“ would frequently tell him his estate
“ would be laid out in books.

“ This was the family in which I was to
“ spend four months. The eldest son
“ came to meet me on my arrival, and
“ conducted me to his father’s house. The
“ old gentleman, when I became a little
“ acquainted with him, used to make fre-
“ quent allusions to my father’s submission,
“ and to the unnatural manner in which
“ my brother treated me.

‘ Ah,’

‘ Ah,’ said he, ‘ if my cousin Will
‘ had but been ruled by me, things would
‘ not be as they are now. Rot it, why a
‘ man that will be governed by a squinney-
‘ gut—Well, it does not signify, but she
‘ is your mother, my lad, and I’ll say no
‘ more—But I promise thee I am glad to
‘ see thee, and thee beest heartily welcome
‘ to every thing I have. But your father’s
‘ a fool. He is a fool.’

“ I bore with these discourses, which
“ were generally attended with a hearty
“ shake by the hand, as I knew they pro-
“ ceeded from his affection to my father,
“ and he had no other manner of express-
“ ing it.

“ The eldest son was my chief compa-
“ nion, and as he was much fonder of his
“ sisters than either of his brothers, we
“ spent a good deal of time with them. I
“ was then in my twentieth year; and the
“ reflection of my mother’s behaviour, and
“ my sister’s perfidy, had given me such

“ an idea of the sex, that I thought no-
“ thing about them, except making a re-
“ solution to have as little to say to them
“ as possible. This had directed my con-
“ duct: and while my companions were
“ fighting for this girl, or running wild for
“ another, I could laugh at them with a
“ great deal of composure; but it was my
“ turn to try the sex. Among the visi-
“ tants of the family was a Miss Colson,
“ the daughter of a neighbouring gentle-
“ man, of small estate, and a numerous
“ family; but this daughter had been pro-
“ vided for by a relation, who had left her
“ an independent fortune by will. Her
“ actions were, consequently, free, and not
“ so much liable to the control of her fa-
“ ther as if her expectations had rested on
“ him. However, this was a circum-
“ stance I was not then acquainted with,
“ nor knew till some time afterwards. It
“ was not the consideration of her fortune,
“ for that was not great, which drew my
“ at-

" attention, it was the beauty of her per-
 " son, and the innocence of her manners :
 " guarded, as I imagined my heart to be,
 " against the wiles of the sex, I could not
 " resist the many charms that appeared in
 " her. If she is like the rest of her sex,
 " thought I, there can be no truth, no
 " virtue in the world; it is all fallacy, all
 " deceit. My reason took part with my
 " passions, and approved the choice that
 " my eyes had made; as she was the love-
 " liest object that they had ever beheld.
 " My affection was in proportion to her
 " beauty, and my own inexperience. In
 " the vigor of youth, with a sanguine tem-
 " per, and glowing imagination, I was
 " hurried away by the violence of my love,
 " before I well knew that I had conceived
 " a liking for her; but what was a secret
 " to myself, was observed by every body
 " about me. The particularities of my
 " behaviour, my continually attaching my-
 " self to her, the involuntary adoration I

“ paid her, were all evidences against me.
“ My cousin Tom Harper, which was the
“ eldest, and who was, as I mentioned be-
“ fore, my chief companion, quickly per-
“ ceived the alteration in my behaviour;
“ and when I asked him one day, would
“ he take a ride towards Mr. Colson’s? he
“ laughed very significantly at me, and
“ pretended some business prevented him.
“ This refusal had the effect he expected,
“ and I was very restless and uneasy: he
“ took that opportunity of teasing me for
“ my reserve in not acquainting him with
“ the sentiments of my heart. I answered
“ him very truly, that I could not rightly
“ tell what they were, that I believed he
“ had explained them for me, but that he
“ ought to excuse my silence, which pro-
“ ceeded from diffidence of myself, and
“ fear of being laughed at. I continued
“ to request him to give me his opinion
“ concerning Miss Colson, and also to in-
“ form me if he knew whether her af-
“ fections

"fections were engaged, and whether I
 "stood any chance of success in the suit I
 "was going to begin, and designed to
 "pursue. His answer was, that her gene-
 "ral character was a very good one; that
 "she had many lovers, but her coldness
 "had repulsed them all, whether from her
 "natural aversion to marriage, or whether
 "they were not agreeable to her. That
 "she was at present without an admirer,
 "at least a professed one. He mentioned
 "the circumstance of her having an inde-
 "pendent fortune; and concluded by say-
 "ing, he believed she would make a good
 "wife. After this I kept no secret from
 "him, and he frequently accompanied me
 "in my visits to her father's. Mr. Colson
 "was much of the same stamp with old
 "Harper, but greatly his inferior in fortune,
 "consequently, our visits to his house
 "were extremely well received, and the
 "oftener we repeated them, the greater
 "honour we conferred on him. His daugh-

“ter also had unlimited power of visiting
“the Miss Harpers when she pleased.
“With these opportunities I made the best
“use of my time, and at length broke
“through the restraint that fear of offend-
“ing her imposed on me, and ventured to
“tell her what I felt for her. The cha-
“racter that Tom Harper had given me
“was verified. She treated me with cold-
“ness, and would not suffer me to explain
“my sentiments: nay more, she shunned
“me with the greatest care, nor would she
“even look on me. This treatment almost
“broke my heart, and I feared her aver-
“sion to me was real. My friend saw my
“dejection of spirits, and applied himself
“to console me. He helped to dissipate
“my chagrin, by telling me that this de-
“meanour might be affected, and that I
“should overcome it by perseverance; that
“a true lover had always hopes, and that
“I should not despair.”

‘ You

‘ You seem to be acquainted with the
‘ conduct of a man in love, perhaps you
‘ have experienced that passion yourself.’

‘ Perhaps I may,’ replied he.

‘ Ah! then, have you not dealt ungene-
‘ nerously by me? you have obtained the
‘ secret of my heart from me, and have not
‘ communicated yours in return; but I do
‘ not, I will not blame you for your want of
‘ confidence in me. When you come to
‘ know me better, you will have more de-
‘ pendence on me.’

‘ Don’t upbraid me, Afgill: when I do
‘ inform you, you will confess that my
‘ caution has not been useless. There is
‘ every thing to be feared from a breach
‘ of trust, but I will not think so unwor-
‘ thily of you, as to imagine you could be
‘ guilty of such baseness, at least I hope the
‘ regard you profess for me, and which I
‘ believe to be sincere, would prevent your
‘ ruining me, which would be the conse-
‘ quence of a discovery to my father; at
‘ any rate, if not totally ruin me, it would

‘ occasion a very disagreeable and distress-
 ‘ ing alteration in my affairs.’

‘ Then don’t trust me, Tom, if you fear
 ‘ me—’

‘ I will give you greater proofs of my
 ‘ good opinion of you than you imagine.’

“ This conversation raised my curiosity
 “ only as I was interested in this worthy
 “ fellow’s welfare. I loved him for his
 “ good qualities before, but the confidence
 “ which I imagined he was about to repose
 “ in me, improved the affection I had con-
 “ ceived for him. I took his advice with
 “ regard to Miss Colson, and still had the
 “ mortification to find my most earnest and
 “ diligent attention to her of no service to
 “ my suit. Still I complained to my
 “ cousin, and still he endeavoured to in-
 “ spire me with hope. One evening he ad-
 “ dressed me before his father :

‘ I want to shew you some of the country,
 ‘ as you are down with us ; will you take
 ‘ a ride with me to-morrow to my farm ?’

‘ Why,

‘Why, Tom,’ said the old gentleman,
‘you’ll kill the Oxonian—he won’t be able
‘to ride so far.’

‘I’ll try, Sir.’

‘You’ll be left behind,” added he.

“The next morning we sat out very
“early, unattended.

‘You have a long ride to take,’ said my
‘companion, ‘above forty miles, and
‘through very bad roads; but I hope you’ll
‘be recompensed for the trouble you will
‘have in your journey.’

“I told him I expected it, and during
“the whole way repressed every desire I
“had of being informed of the place we
“were going to, and the cause of our ride.
“We rested during the heat of the day,
“for it was then the hottest time of the
“year, and arrived in the evening at a
“farm house in a lonely country. The
“farmer and his wife expressed great satis-
“faction to see their young master, and
“regaled us with their best fare.

‘You and I,’ said Tom, ‘must sleep to-

‘gether for a few nights, for in this wild
‘place there are not many conveniencies,
‘and you may think yourself well off to
‘have a bed at any rate; however, you
‘shall share a tolerable good one this night,
‘and a better to-morrow night; but I shall
‘disturb you very early in the morning.’

“Fatigue lulled me to rest, and I slept
“very soundly till he awakened me, when
“the sun,

With wheels yet hov’ring o’er the Ocean’s brim,
Shot parallel to the earth his dewy ray.

‘Come, my friend,’ said he, ‘will you
‘sleep all day; arise, I am impatient.’

“I started up and dressed myself: his
“looks shewed me his impatience, if he
“had not mentioned it. We left the farm-
“house, and walked towards the moun-
“tains, which were very near us. I fol-
“lowed his steps in anxious silence, and
“he went near four miles before he spoke.

‘You are near your journey’s end, and
‘now you shall see the jewel that these
“moun-

‘ mountains hide, far more precious to me
‘ than the mines of Golconda or Peru.’

“ While he spoke his cheeks were co-
“ vered with a manly blush, and his eyes
“ sparkled with redoubled lustre. I don’t
“ know whether I told you that I looked
“ upon him as one of the handsomest men
“ I had ever seen, and then I thought his
“ personal beauty was augmented. We were
“ now in a narrow path between two hills,
“ which opened at once into a little lawn,
“ if I may so call it, for it was almost
“ surrounded by the hills, except an open-
“ ing on the south, which gave a view
“ of the adjacent country. A few more
“ paces brought us in sight of a very
“ neat house, with some plantations of
“ trees about it, that gave a most romantic
“ appearance to it in the midst of a de-
“ sert. We approached the house under
“ the cover of a row of fir-trees that hid us,
“ though we could see the garden, which
“ they served to shelter from the north and

“ north-east winds, through some openings
“ in them. My friend, whose eye was
“ directed to the spot where his treasure
“ lay, pointed with his finger to the gar-
“ den; and I saw a lady, employed in the
“ culture of some flowers, but she was at
“ too great a distance for a particular ob-
“ servation. I could not help comparing
“ her to Milton’s description of Eve, who

—Went forth among her fruits and flow’rs
To visit how they prosper’d, bud and bloom
Her nursery; they at her coming sprung,
And, touch’d by her fair tendence, gladlier grew.

“ My friend was pleased at the appli-
“ cation, and told me I should soon find
“ how great the resemblance was both in
“ beauty and innocence. A few minutes
“ brought us to the front of the house,
“ which faced the east. Before the door
“ was a little plot, happily laid out, and
“ the united sweets of the jessamine and
“ woodbine gave a fragrance to the air.

“ a low

“ a low hedge divided the garden from
“ this court, over which the young lady
“ saw our approach. She was the first to
“ open the door. The sight of a stranger
“ checked her transports, but my friend
“ indulged his.

‘ My lovely Adeline,’ he exclaim’d as he
caught her in his arms, and pressed her to his
throbbing bosom.—“ There was a dignity
“ in the manner in which she received his
“ embrace, and an inexpressible affection in
“ her returning it. If ever I saw beauty
“ improved by gracefulness, it was at this
“ moment. She began to complain of
“ his long absence. He interrupted her
“ by presenting me.

‘ This is the cause of it, Adeline, and I
‘ have brought him here to apologize for
‘ himself. He is my near relation,—but
‘ he is more, he is my friend.’

‘ As such I shall be ever glad to receive
‘ him,’ “ replied this fair excellence, as I
“ approached to salute her; but I could not
“ utter

“ utter an intelligible word, so much was I
“ struck with her appearance. I muttered
“ some apology, which passed off very well;
“ for the enamoured pair were too much
“ engaged with each other to pay any at-
“ tention to my speeches. Mrs. Clarinton
“ heard my friend’s voice, and came to
“ meet him. He addressed her with an
“ air of the greatest respect; and she re-
“ ceived him with much pleasure, and a
“ confident cordiality that bespoke her
“ good opinion of him. I was also intro-
“ duced to this good lady: and now I had
“ an opportunity of contemplating the ami-
“ able family which I had the happiness
“ to see before me. Mrs. Clarinton had
“ passed the bloom of life, but her regula-
“ rity and temperance yet preserved the
“ roses on her cheeks, that the sun of time
“ had but just withered. She shewed what
“ she had been, and was pleasing even
“ then. The propriety and dignity of her
“ deportment, though far removed from
“ every

" every haughty and supercilious air, threw
 " a lustre round her that made her an ob-
 " ject of admiration. But her sweetness
 " of temper and good sense invited you to
 " use every becoming freedom in her com-
 " pany, and you forgot the awe she in-
 " spired in the agreeableness of her con-
 " versation. But what words shall paint
 " the lovely Adeline! What terms can
 " describe the charming maid! Nothing
 " had my eyes seen before so amiable, nor
 " shall they ever behold so lovely an ob-
 " ject again. Her dress was contrived to
 " fit her shape, which was perfection itself.
 " But I cannot tell you how fair she was.
 " My idea of her is so strong this moment,
 " that I know my attempts to describe her
 " would fall so short of her beauty that I
 " should debase my subject. I could not
 " help respecting her as something super-
 " natural; and surely she was the most de-
 " licate, the most perfect work of the cre-
 " ation. She was possessed of every thing
 " that

“ that was worthy of love and admiration.
“ What encreased the force of her charms,
“ was her ignorance of their power. In-
“ nocent and artless as the first created
“ woman ere she fell; she gained every
“ heart that saw her. This consequence
“ of her extraordinary beauty my friend
“ feared, and she was sequestered in this
“ solitude to preserve her for his arms,
“ who alone seemed worthy of her. This
“ was the manner in which her residence in
“ this lonely place first struck my thoughts,
“ and the consequences justified my no-
“ tions. Breakfast was soon prepared, and
“ I was not more surprisèd at the appear-
“ ance of the charming inhabitants of this
“ house, than at the elegance and neatness
“ of every thing about them. Here it was
“ that my friend appeared himself. There
“ had ever hung a languor and a listless-
“ ness upon him when at home, that I ima-
“ gined to be the consequence of something
“ that had displeased him, and which made
“ him.

“ him apply himself to books to dissipate.

“ Here it was otherwise, his manners and

“ his language, as well as his face, assumed a

“ new dress; but it was the garb of joy

“ and rapture.

“ After our repast, which consisted of

“ every thing excellent in its kind, Adeline,

“ her lover, and I went into the garden,

“ while Mrs. Clarinton went to employ

“ herself about her domestic concerns. I

“ expressed my surprise at the beauty and

“ regularity of this spot, where every thing

“ useful and ornamental were so happily

“ blended together.

‘ This garden is Adeline’s province,’ re-

plied he, ‘ and this is but a small proof

‘ of her taste; you shall have a greater by

‘ and by, if she will be so kind to indulge

‘ us.’

‘ I am glad you think so well of me,’

“ said she, ‘ your cousin,’ added she, ad-]

“ dressing herself to me, ‘ has ever told me

‘ truth, and I can depend upon what he says

‘ as

‘as his real opinion. My confidence in
‘him has been founded upon that basis
‘which nothing can destroy but his vio-
‘lation of that truth.’

‘That cannot be feared, Madam, espe-
‘cially when you are to be the reward of
‘his adhering to it.’

‘You are right,’ added he; ‘to lose my
‘Adeline would be the severest of all pu-
‘nishments.’

“The smile, expressive of her satisfac-
“tion, and the pure affection she enter-
“tained for him, repaid his attention, and
“filled his heart with rapture. I, who was
“but a novice in the language of love, yet
“understood enough of this intellectual
“conversation, to convince me of the hap-
“piness of this enamoured pair. We spent
“some time in rambling about this agree-
“able place: and every moment gave me
“a fresh opportunity of admiring the
“mental, as well as personal, qualifica-
“tions of the lovely Adeline. The heat of
“the

“ the sun drove us to the house to seek for
 “ shelter from his beams. We found Mrs.
 “ Clarinton disengaged, and waiting our
 “ return.

‘ Well, Mr. Harper,’ said she, ‘ if you
 ‘ could have staid longer out, I should not
 ‘ have had the pleasure of your company
 ‘ within doors.’

“ He smiled at the reproof, and replied,
 “ that he had been entertained with Ade-
 “ line’s improvements in the garden: but
 “ added, that he had been rash enough to
 “ promise me a taste of her daughter’s
 “ performance on the harpsichord.

‘ That,’ replied Adeline, ‘ if it can
 ‘ please, I shall be happy in doing.’

“ We followed her into a room where
 “ her harpsichord stood, and she gave us
 “ proofs of an exquisite taste and judg-
 “ ment. She sang several songs, and the
 “ harmony of her voice was of apiece
 “ with the rest of her perfections. Her
 “ lover was drowned in a flood of pleasure;
 “ his

“ his senses were all absorbed in the con-
“ templation of her charms; he sat moti-
“ onless in drinking large draughts of love
“ at his ears and eyes. In this angelic
“ situation we spent the time till we were
“ summoned to dinner; my calling it an
“ angelic recreation may seem ridiculous,
“ but if we can form any idea of the amuse-
“ ments of those celestial beings, they
“ must arise from the contemplation of su-
“ perior perfection; from the reflection of
“ their innocence, and from the delightful
“ harmony their songs of praise occasion.
“ If I am a little romantic in the descrip-
“ tion of this mansion, and this happy, be-
“ cause virtuous, family, you must in-
“ dulse me: though the rough hand of
“ adversity may have brushed away the re-
“ membrance of other occurrences, yet
“ this made so deep an impression on my
“ memory, that my dying hour can never
“ obliterate it. The dinner was plain, but
“ the simplicity of the food recommended
“ it.

" it. Various little cakes, prepared by the
 " hands of Adeline, served as a desert,
 " mixed with fruit. She not only pos-
 " sessed the politer accomplishments, but
 " her careful mother, to whom nothing
 " that appertained to good housewifery was
 " unknown, instructed her in every thing
 " that became the mistress of a family to
 " be acquainted with ; and the amusements
 " of her leisure hours were her music and
 " drawing. At the request of my cousin
 " she produced several pieces, which shew-
 " ed that she was only a beginner ; yet
 " had so good a genius, that a little in-
 " struction would have rendered her a mis-
 " tress of the art. When the heat of the
 " day was a little over, we walked out.
 " My friend attached himself to Ade-
 " line, and I conducted her mother.

' I have not ceased to wonder, Madam,
 ' ever since I arrived at your delightful
 ' abode, and not more at the reclusive situ-
 ' ation in which you dwell, than to find in
 ' such]

‘such a solitude charms that would shine
 ‘in a court, and perfections that would de-
 ‘mand attention in the midst of the most
 ‘numerous and polite assemblies.’

‘Sir,’ said she, ‘though I am obliged
 ‘to you for the good opinion you entertain
 ‘of us, yet it is not the language of com-
 ‘mendations we are accustomed to in this
 ‘place: but you will soon see how we
 ‘spend our time, and where there is so
 ‘much leisure, improvement will come of
 ‘course. We devote ourselves to it when
 ‘we are alone, and every portion of the
 ‘day has its peculiar employment.’

‘But where, Madam, can you procure
 ‘instructors, so remote as you are from
 ‘any town?’

“She interrupted me with a smile.

‘We have a collection of very good
 ‘books, and I have assisted my daugh-
 ‘ter.’

‘Then I am no longer at a loss to ac-
 ‘count for her extraordinary qualifications.’

‘They

‘ They are such as should make her happy, if she can be so. She is innocent, she is virtuous. Your cousin possesses her heart—she lives for him alone. I believe him deserving of her. And it gives me a second youth to behold them, and indulge myself in the pleasing reflection that my daughter will be happy in him. I am convinced of the goodness of his heart, and the uprightness of his intention. And when I shall see them united, I shall have no more to wish for on earth, for I shall be sure of their future happiness; thoroughly sensible that a youth of virtue and good sense, will ensure an old age of content. The most pleasing reflections that can attend us in that age, are those which arise from a life spent in acts of piety, benevolence, and virtue.’

‘ Such sentiments, and the conduct that is actuated by them, must ensure felicity.’

‘ I hope

‘ I hope so. Adeline is young, yet she
‘ is not without experience in misfortunes,
‘ A good Providence has shielded us from
‘ the severity of them. We now enjoy
‘ tranquility, and are more sensible of the
‘ sweets of repose by comparing our pre-
‘ sent with our former situation? The
‘ world that we are secluded from, has no
‘ charms for us ; and the vanities of it, so
‘ alluring in general to a youthful imagi-
‘ nation, would be disagreeable to her at
‘ all times, and more especially if her lover
‘ was not to guide her through its intricate
‘ and dangerous paths.’

“ Our conversation was interrupted by
“ the return of our party as the evening
“ drew on. We spent the time till the
“ hour of rest approached in the most a-
“ greeable manner. The conversation of
“ those amiable women, had the innocent
“ freedom of virtue, and the cheerfulness
“ that ever attends an upright heart. I
“ prevailed upon Adeline to favour us
“ with

“with some more of her melodious per-
 “formances. My soul forgot its woes :
 “lulled to rest by the powerful enchant-
 “ment of her voice, we retired early to
 “repose. My cousin was my companion
 “for this night also; and I could not
 “help congratulating him on the pro-
 “spect of happiness that opened before
 “him.”

‘Where did you discover this treasure,
 ‘or how have you been able to conceal it
 ‘so long from the eye of curiosity? Have
 ‘you met no disturbance from the ruffian
 ‘or the lecher; for such temptation no-
 ‘thing but virtue can withstand?’

‘I will give you every satisfaction you
 ‘can require,’ said he, ‘in our return.
 ‘The relation will beguile the road, and
 ‘make it seem shorter.’

“I slept soundly : and when I woke in
 “the morning, I missed my companion,
 “early as it was. He had stolen to meet
 “his Adeline, and enjoy the delightful

“privacy so estimable to lovers. I arose,
“and found them in the garden. The
“entertainments of the second day were
“like the former. In the evening Ade-
“line proposed a walk, and took us thro’
“a path that was new to us. It led down
“the side of a steep hill; but the descent
“was easy.”

‘Where do you design to lead us, Ade-
‘line?’ said Harper.

‘A little further on; you shall see,’ re-
plied she, smiling.

“We arrived at a space that nature had
“dressed in its brightest verdure. It was
“but small; but the contrast of the brown
“hue of the neighbouring hills added to
“its beauty. In one corner of it Adeline
“caused an hermitage to be erected, with
“roots of trees, and broad flat stones
“which the place supplied; on the out-
“side, jessamines and woodbines were
“climbing to the top of it; the inside
“was matted, and had a seat all round it;
‘it fronted a brook, which falling from
“and

“ an eminence opposite to it, gave a murmuring sound; and the eye could trace its course through the trees as it ran glittering through the valley; the edges of this little spot were garnished with flowers of different hues and odours: it was a little paradise. The lovely Adeline enjoyed the surprise the sight of this elegant little place occasioned in us.”

‘ Every day,’ said Harper, ‘ am I thus forced to acknowledge, that nothing can surpass the taste and elegance of this charming girl. You are wrong,’ added he, addressing himself to her, ‘ to be too amiable. You will make me appear unworthy of you; and from a sense of my demerits, I shall cease to love you.’

‘ That can never happen,’ said she, ‘ I am sure. This is all I can call my own, and your approving it will make it valuable to me.’

‘ You do nothing but what merits my approbation, Adeline. You do me an injury when you doubt it.’

‘ This was done to please you, and if
‘ you like it my ends are answered.’

“ He pressed her hand to his lips in an
“ ecstacy of pleasure. Her mother, happy
“ in the fondness of this amiable pair, gave
“ me a look expressive of her satisfaction.
“ Tea was prepared in this pleasant re-
“ treat, where we spent some hours with
“ great pleasure. Four days we remained
“ here; and our time glided impercepti-
“ bly away. I heard with regret of my
“ cousin’s intended departure, which was
“ fixed for the evening of the fourth day.
“ I had been so happy and so delighted,
“ that I was sorry to leave a spot that
“ afforded me so much satisfaction. I did
“ not part from Adeline and her mother
“ without receiving assurances of their
“ regard for me, and wishes to see me
“ with Mr. Harper when he came again.
“ My return to this kindness was recipro-
“ cal and sincere: and I told them truly
“ that I had not seen any persons for whom
“ I had

“ I had so real an esteem, or so great
 “ a desire to render myself agreeable to.
 “ The tear trickled down Adeline’s cheek
 “ as she bade her lover adieu : and he
 “ could scarce say to her, Farewell. He
 “ tore himself from her, and feared to in-
 “ dulse a weakness that he could not re-
 “ sist. I followed him in silence, my mind
 “ employed in the thoughts of what had
 “ passed, and in expecting to meet as much
 “ happiness in Miss Colson, though not
 “ so beautiful or accomplished as the
 “ charming Adeline. That night we lay
 “ at the farm house, and the next morn-
 “ ing we bent our course homewards.”

‘ I promised you,’ said my worthy friend,
 ‘ when you were at Mrs. Clarinton’s, that
 ‘ I would give you every satisfaction in
 ‘ my power concerning her and her daugh-
 ‘ ter. You are the only person whom I
 ‘ have intrusted with the care of keeping
 ‘ this secret, which is of the utmost im-
 ‘ portance to me. You are therefore my

' only friend ; for though I have brothers,
 ' I cannot impart to them the sentiments
 ' of my heart, and my sisters would be-
 ' hold Adeline's merits with too jealous an
 ' eye, ever to suffer me to introduce her to
 ' them. I can now have the pleasure of
 ' talking to you of the lovely maid in her
 ' absence ; but I, who know the force of
 ' love, can best caution you against the
 ' weakness that attends that tender pas-
 ' sion. Hint not a syllable of this affair to
 ' Miss Colson, you may as well tell it to
 ' all the world : for a woman cannot keep
 ' a secret, where there is another woman
 ' concerned, and one especially that you
 ' must praise so much as Adeline, if you
 ' speak with justice of her. Bury it there-
 ' fore in your own breast, and take no no-
 ' tice of me.

I was once a greater sportsman than
 my youngest brother, nothing could stop
 my pursuit of the chase ; nobody could
 be

be more dissipated than I was in the first years of my life. As this was the course my father followed when he was a young man himself, he thought it the most eligible and the best I could take. My exploits in following the dogs were the frequent themes of his discourse; and his commendations of my spirit added to my desire of signalizing myself in his and the world's eyes, and I knew no greater ambition than to be first in at the death, or to lead the field. In this manner the younger part of my life passed principally away; yet I could not forbear sometimes stealing to books, which shewed me where my deficiencies lay, and the means of amending them; but as my father told me if I could sign a lease or write a receipt, I was wise enough for a country gentleman, and never minded my improvement, I was not courageous enough to undertake so great a task of my own head. However, I then had something gentler

about me than my fellow brutes, and I frequently preferred the conversation of my mother who is a sensible woman, at her tea table, to the riots and drunken frolicks of my brethren of the chace. Instead of going to any of the houses of the neighbouring sportsmen, who were remarkable for drinking hard, I have stolen home, and indulged myself in privacy and solitude. I then led an happy though an usefess life; was content, because I had nothing to make me uneasy; and though I knew no cares, I had not experienced any of the pleasures that make this state delightful. Whilst in this situation, business led me across the country. I was attended by my servant, a young fellow of my own age, who had been bred up with me from my youth, and from being boys together grew into men: As the road lay by the door of a neat little house that stood contiguous to it, (it was in the afternoon) and I was riding with as much
haste

haste as I could to reach my stage that night, as it was at a good distance, yet my curiosity made me stop at this house. A young fellow of tolerable good fortune in this country was knocking at the door as hard as he could, with an intention to gain admittance : his servant held his horse near the place. I stopped, and he turned about to see who was near him, and finding it was one whom he was acquainted with, by name at least, and I believe we had hunted together, he proceeded to knock louder than ever. A Lady appeared at the door, and very civilly demanded the cause of his wanting admission. His speech shewed him to have drank as much as elevated him, though he had the perfect use of his senses.

‘ Madam,’ said he, ‘ I want to see the young woman who ran in here, she is a pretty wench—I want to see her, that is all.’

‘ You will excuse me, Sir,’ replied the Lady, ‘ I have not the pleasure of knowing you, and my daughter is not accustomed to see strangers.’

‘ Upon my soul,’ said he, ‘ I have seen her once, and I must see her again.’

‘ I must intreat you to desist, for it is what I will not comply with.”

‘ That does not signify, I must and will see her.’

I thought I might prevent his insulting a Lady, whose appearance demanded respect, and whose protection it was the business of every man to undertake. As I approached him, having alighted and entered the court before the house, he imagined that I was coming to assist him.

‘ Ha ! Harper, we shall see her now : she is a delicate wench, faith.’

‘ Do not desire to do any thing so disagreeable to this Lady, as to force into her house contrary to her inclinations.

‘ There

‘ There is a respect due to the fair sex, and
‘ that must not be violated.’

‘ Ah, damn it,’ replied he, ‘ I did not
‘ want to hear you preach—I’ll get in, I
‘ promise you.’

‘ But I promise you that you shall not.’

‘ Shall not !’

‘ No—by no means.’

‘ I’ll try that.’

As he spoke he endeavoured to force
me from the door, but I pushed him from
it with more violence than he expected.
This was an insult he determined to re-
venge, and he struck at me with his whip
in a manner that shewed how much he
was offended : tho’ I warded off the blow
with my arm, and thereby escaped the
fury of it ; yet, the end of the whip gave
me a slight cut on the head. I repaid
this assault with interest, for I was no
longer master of my temper, and knocked
him down. His servant came to his mas-
ter’s assistance, and mine came to prevent

his injuring me. There was now a pitched battle, in which we had the good fortune to come off conquerors, and remained masters of the field. However, my antagonist did not depart without venting his anger at the disappointment he had met with.

‘I know you, Harper,’ said he, ‘and shall find a time for wreaking my vengeance on you—You shall not escape it.’

I told him I did not fear it.

‘And these women,’ continued he, ‘shall hear more of me.’

‘They regard you as little as I do,’ was my answer to him as he mounted his horse and went off, but too well treated for his insolence. When he was gone I turned to the Lady, who, unaccustomed to such scenes of tumult and riotous behaviour, stood trembling and unable to speak, and assured her that she need not be afraid of any future attempts of the person that
went

went away, for his threats were of no consequence; and telling her I was very glad that I happened to come that way, wished her a good afternoon.

‘I cannot think of your going away,’ Sir,’ replied she, ‘after so generously interposing in my behalf, without receiving mine and my daughter’s acknowledgements for your kindness.’

As I turned about to take my leave, she saw the blood trickling down my hair, from the wound I had received.

‘Ah, Sir,’ said she, with much earnestness, ‘you are hurt; let me intreat you to come in, and have something applied to it.’

The eagerness with which I had been engaged prevented my feeling any inconvenience from this hurt. I treated it as a very trifling matter, and would have omitted giving any trouble; but she repeated her intreaties, and added, that I need not be afraid to trust myself in her hands. I
suppose

suppose by this time you conjecture the Lady whom I assisted to be Mrs. Clarinton, and you are not mistaken. I suffered myself to be prevailed on by her intreaties, and followed her into the house; and the first object which met my eyes was Adeline. She was in tears, and great as her beauty is, I think she at that moment was more lovely than ever I saw her: so true are the poet's words,

When beauty in distress appears,
An irresistible charm it bears,
In every breast does pity move,
Pity, the tenderest part of love.

I was struck at her appearance. She ran to her mother.

‘ Ah, Madam, pardon my imprudence,
‘ I have suffered severely for it in being a
‘ witness to your uneasiness.’

Her mother interrupted her, by saying she had done nothing that reduced her to the necessity of asking pardon.

‘ But,

‘But, my dear,’ added she, ‘this gentleman has received hurt in kindly serving us, and we should endeavour to give him some assistance.’

The charming maid turned her eyes on me, yet swimming in tears. The lucid drops, in some measure, damped the lustre of the brilliant orbs; but that look undid me—to this hour I have not forgot it. The rose-bud just opening its tender leaves to the sun of the morning, increases its sweets and beauty by receiving the fragrant dew—Sweeter, more beauteous, more fragrant was the lovely Adeline. I forgot every thing that had passed; I felt no hurt; so much was I transported with her sight, so much was I enchanted in her presence! Every sense was centered in that of seeing: and I stood senseless to every thing else, gazing at her only. Mrs. Clarinton recalled me a little to myself, by requesting me to sit down. Adeline flew to procure me a cordial of her mother’s own making, and

and the good Lady insisted on inspecting and dressing my wound. That was a needless trouble, for I felt no hurt, but that which I had received from beholding Adeline. Mrs. Clarinton wash'd it with some brandy, and having informed me, with a smile, that it was not dangerous, she seated herself; and Adeline, who began to recover from the fright she was in, thanked me too for the trouble I had taken in preventing the insolence of the gentleman, who wanted to force into the house. My reply was such as any man would make on such an occasion: but I wished to stay longer in their agreeable company, and could not contrive any other means than that of drawing them into conversation. I therefore desired to know the rise of the affair, and how he came to be so importunate, and desirous to get in. Mrs. Clarinton answered me, that her daughter had been employed in the little garden before the door, as she frequently was: that
this

this gentleman riding by took notice of her, stoped and asked her some question, which she did not rightly understand; upon which he said, he would come and explain it to her himself, and immediately alighting, gave his horse to his servant to hold, and followed her to the house; for on seeing his intention to come to her, she ran in and shut the door. He had been there but a little while before you came up, and what followed you know very well.

‘And now, Sir,’ continued she, ‘I must add my thanks to my daughter’s for the service you have done us; and I must further trouble you, Sir, to let us know who this person is who has so much the appearance, and so little the manners of a gentleman; for I think you know him, and I believe he called you by your name.’

I told them every particular I knew of him, and of what nature our acquaintance was,

was, for I feared then that they would think worse of me for being known to him. I staid to tea at their request, and took an opportunity of letting them know who I was; and telling them where I was going, and as I was to return by their door, begged leave to wait on them again. She assured me that they should be glad to see me, and I departed from them another man than I was: so much was I altered in a small space of time! As my business did not detain me long; I was impatient to behold the charming Adeline again, and I called on them in the forenoon in hopes of being asked to dinner: I was not deceived, and had the happiness of spending the day with them. As the cause of my becoming acquainted with them was the subject of our conversation, I found Mrs. Clarinton was afraid of another visit from the person who insulted her; she having seen his servant ride by once or twice, and looking at the house very attentively.

tentively. That circumstance, her apprehensions construed into a design to surprise them; and as their family consisted only of women, they were not in a condition to repel his attacks. Mrs. Clarinton told me, that it was an unhappy incident, for as she had pitched upon that place for her retirement, and was settled there, she could not think of leaving it without uneasiness, and more especially as she knew not where else to go; she therefore asked me, if I knew any servant whom I could recommend to her, and on whose honesty she might depend; paying me at the same time the compliment of saying, that though I was a stranger to her, yet she would rely upon me, and intreat me to stand her friend in a country where she was entirely unknown. This was a gleam of light, that shewed me a future correspondence with this amiable family. I thanked her for the good opinion she had entertained of me, and the honour she had

had conferred on me, by suffering me to interest myself in her affairs; affirmed, that she would not be deceived in me, and assured her that I had never seen any persons whose welfare was more my concern than theirs, and that I would do every thing in my power to serve them.

‘As for a servant, Madam,’ added I, ‘that would be fit for you, there is no-
‘thing so difficult to be got, especially in
‘this country; but I have one that will
‘answer every purpose for you—It is my
‘own servant.’

I was interrupted by Mrs. Clarinton, who declared she could not think of depriving me of him. I, on the other hand, explained the nature of his connexions with me, assured her of his honesty and fidelity, and concluded with insisting on her receiving him: she at last consented, and I carried my point. I asked and obtained permission to see them again; and when I took my leave, Mrs. Clarinton told
me

me that the sooner I made it convenient to myself to pay her a visit, the more she would believe I concerned myself in her affairs. This was extremely pleasing to me, as I flattered myself with frequent opportunities of seeing Adeline. In my way home I instructed my servant, who knew no opposition to my will, in the conduct he was to observe in Mrs. Clarinton's house, and assured him that the greatest proof of his regard for me would be his care of Adeline: he promised to defend her with his life. Accordingly, the day after I arrived at home I discharged him, under pretence of having misbehaved upon our journey, and he went to Mrs. Clarinton's, carrying arms with him which I had taken care to provide him. And now that I was left a little to my own thoughts, I began to consider the situation of my heart. I found that the thoughts of the beautiful girl I had seen were ever uppermost in my imagination; that she

was

was indispensibly necessary to my future happiness; that she was the most desirable object in the creation, and that I could not live without her. These were facts my heart gave ample testimony to—But how I should obtain her was what disturbed me. I was as yet a stranger to every circumstance concerning her, but her beauty; and as I conjectured by their manner of living, that she had no great fortune, I found myself entitled to make proposals to her as an husband. But the superiority of fortune is the meanest consideration in the eye of true love. I might buy her, but I should not perhaps gain her heart: besides, I found in the conversations I had held with her, that she was possessed of more sense than I was, and the language and sentiments of her mother and herself, were as mirrors to shew me my own deficiencies. I was ashamed of myself, and determined from that hour to improve myself as much as I could. I was then of

an age which gave me resolution to pursue a settled plan, and my reason could comprehend what I read: though not so successful as I wish, yet I am much better than I was. But this is anticipating my relation.

In less than a fortnight I went to see Mrs. Clarinton again, who, as well as her daughter, received me with a great deal of pleasure, and expressed the obligations they were under to me for the servant. But though they were more secure than before, yet Mrs. Clarinton was very uneasy at her situation; and especially as Mr. Ingram, for that was the name of the person who had insulted them, was a neighbour, and as he rode frequently backward and forward, she was under apprehensions of him. I endeavoured to quiet them as well as I could, and she seemed satisfied. Adeline's reserve wore off, as she grew more acquainted with me, and added the charms of a chearful sensibility and lively innocence,

to

to the beauties of her face and person. Every time I saw her, I was more enamoured of her than before: and the permission I had to see her there whenever I pleased, which I did not fail to make a good use of, rendered me at length quite familiar with them, and I had the happiness of seeing myself esteemed by them both.

My mother had an uncle who was a very great humourist. Unhappy divisions in this kingdom, some years ago had engaged many gentlemen of this county either on one side or the other, as their different interests or inclinations prevailed. Among the adherents to the ruined cause, was my uncle, and on the contrary party was my father, whose weight and influence ever successfully opposed the former. This bred the greatest animosity between them: and the feuds that arose in private families, were but the types of the public distractions. My uncle, who embarked

barked in the cause he espoused with very great spirit, had strained every nerve to support it; and the consequence was, he involved himself in trouble, and his estate in debt. At last he had the mortification to see all his hopes fail him, and his party totally ruined. It was double aggravation of distress to a man of his sanguine and impatient temper, to be exposed to the triumph of his adversaries, and see his fortune reduced at the same time. It was a circumstance he could not bear, and he resolved to bury himself in obscurity. He accordingly sold off as much of his estate as would pay his debts, and, with some money that was left, he built that house we have just quitted, and where Mrs. Clarinton now lives. He was a bachelor, and his nearest relation was my mother, whom he truly loved, and whom he well knew was in her heart, from the mistaken principles of her education, attached to his way of thinking; but the

fear of her husband, who was as violent on the other side of the question, prevented her shewing them. As I grew up, he sent a private message to my mother, with a desire to see me; but this she dared not comply with, unless my father consented, and nothing could induce him to it but the hopes she inspired him with, that he would leave the remains of his fortune to our family. He at last permitted me to visit him, though if he had not, I should have possessed my uncle's estate, notwithstanding it was in his power to leave it to whom he pleased. For such was his regard to *lineal succession*, that he would have left his estate to me as his next of kin, though the son of a man whom he looked upon as his most inveterate enemy. In my visits to him I first saw that solitude in which he then lived, and where he had resided for many years before, totally secluded from the world. His amusement had been in improving the place, cloathing the hills with

with wood, and rendering his house comfortable and convenient. He had about two hundred pounds a year when he threw himself into this retirement; and he was not by any means expensive, he had laid by some money. These circumstances my father very well knew when he suffered me to visit him, then about fifteen years old. I had often heard his name mentioned in terms of the highest disrespect and abhorrence by my father, and I went to see him with very great reluctance. But I was agreeably surprised to see a venerable old gentleman, good-natured and indulgent, who expressed great regard for me as his nephew, and who treated me with more fondness than I met at home. I could not avoid paying a proper reverence to his person, and my heart was affected with love and gratitude to him: the more I had been taught to hate him, the more did the unexpected difference I found in him, and which was so contrary to the idea I had en-

tertain'd of him, make me love and honour him. I naturally did every thing I could to oblige him from that principle; and he, on the other hand, conceived a great affection for me. The old gentleman had been a courtier: he was a scholar, and master of the learning of the last age. He was much concerned at the ignorance in which I had been educated, and finding me willing to listen to, and receive his instructions, he first opened the road to the little knowledge I now possess. Young as I then was, yet I had sense enough to perceive that difference between his notions and manners, and those of the persons whom I was accustomed to converse with. I therefore wish'd to be as he was, and attended to what he said to me with pleasure. As the time of my visit was limited by my father, and the hour was come in which we must separate, I parted from him with great regret, and he was also concerned at my going away. He gave me a

letter

letter for my mother, which he told me contained a request for me to come to see him again, if I should chuse it.

‘ Ah Sir,’ said I, ‘ I don’t wish to part with you, I never was so happy as I have been in your company, and I will come soon to you again if you will give me leave.’

He embraced me with great tenderness: and assuring me of his affection, we parted mutually pleased with each other. When I returned home, my father began to examine me concerning my uncle’s behaviour to me, and the great regard I expressed for him was very displeasing: however, when he found that he had mentioned nothing to me either about him or his principles, he seemed more satisfied. He seized the letter to his wife, which he instantly opened. My uncle there spoke of me in the most favourable terms; he lamented my want of education, and offered me every service in his power; expressed his love for me, and desired to see

me often. There was a candour and a kindness in this letter that even affected my father, who does not possess the greatest sensibility. He was pleased with it: but the fear lest I should imbibe any of the notions of my uncle, made him very averse to my making frequent visits to him. Three months elapsed before my father could prevail on himself to let me go a second time; but at length the suggestions of interest overcame all his scruples, and I was suffered to go when I would, and stay as long as I pleased; and I must do that justice to my uncle to say, that he never endeavoured to overturn the principles in which I had been educated, nor did he ever blame my father. Whether this conduct arose from delicacy of sentiment, or whether he perceived that there were no hopes of his party ever rising again, I know not; but I never heard him utter a sentiment that could give offence to his most zealous adversaries, in whose tenets I was,
even

even then, very conversant. The happiest hours of my life, till I saw Adeline, were spent in my uncle's company, whose memory I reverence. His conversation was instructive and entertaining; the accounts of his different stations and transactions in the court and service of his beloved king, gave me an insight into the customs and manners of persons of a superior rank. His experience, which arose both from observation and actual dealings with mankind, afforded me opportunities of enquiring into things that I had hardly ever heard mentioned before. He answered all my questions with the most obliging kindness, and took delight in the improvements I made: — He would frequently say to me,

‘Tom, I shall make you an old man, and you a young one of me.’

We then laid the foundations of some of those rising groves you see there now, and which I cannot look at without remembering

bering the planting of them. I will not be tedious: but my soul delights as much in the recollection of the scenes I have passed in that place, as it does now in the lovely maid that dwells there. That spot was doomed to give me happiness, but I was not to enjoy that of my uncle's company and conversation long: in about two years he was taken ill, and never rose from his bed. He sent for me at the beginning of his illness, and I never quitted him till my attendance could be no longer of service to him. He died in my arms, and I thought that I should have followed him, for his death affected me very much. By his will he left me all his estate, chargeable with an annuity of fifty pounds a year for life to an old friend of his, whom he made his executor; and gave fifteen hundred pounds to my eldest sister, whom I had brought to visit him once along with me. He first inspired me with notions of honour and virtue,
and

and the love of Adeline, I hope, has perfected them.

After his death, the example of the company I met at my father's house, and the levity of youth, made me forsake the course he had advised me to keep; and though I did not forget his instructions, I wanted courage to pursue them: I was fool enough to be affected by the ridicule of those about me, and gave myself up to dissipation and rural sports. I became the boldest hunter and best marksmen in the county; and that satisfied my ambition till I beheld Adeline. Then I perceived the loss I had suffered in not following my uncle's instructions, which would have made her look upon me in a more favourable point of view. To recover my lost time, I had again recourse to my good uncle's library, which he bequeathed to me. During my minority, I had persuaded the executor to take care of the house and gardens; and as I was

of age soon after my acquaintance with Adeline, the estate came into my own hands. Mrs. Clarinton's frequent complaints of her being uneasy at the vicinity of Mr. Ingram, first inspired me with the thoughts of removing her to this house. How to do it without being suspected of interested motives, puzzled me greatly. However, at all events, I had the house fitted up, and was at a very considerable expence in having every convenience added that the modern taste authorised. I sent to London for furniture, and did every thing in my power to render it complete; elegance I could not attain to, though I might endeavour to aim at it. When this was done, and the gardens put in order, I conceived the design of bringing the lovely Adeline and her mother to this charming retreat; for though it is mine, I may be allowed to say, that nothing can exceed the quiet or natural beauty of this spot. Mrs. Cla-

rinton's apprehensions, so far from subsiding in a length of time, rather increased; and every visit I payed her, she seemed more determined to remove to some other place. In the hours of my reflection I had not forgotten my uncle's instructions. I had heard him mention the art of women, and the many snares they laid to entrap the heedless and unwary. Though my heart was prepossessed in favour of Adeline, yet I was willing to know as much as I could of their manner of living, and for that purpose desired William, my servant, to meet me in private. The account he gave me was such as corresponded with my warmest wishes, and fully convinced me how injurious any suspicions were that I could form against the character of Adeline. From that moment I gave myself up to the indulgence of my passion, and did not desire to put a stop to the affection, the unbounded affection, that occupied my breast. I confess to

you, my dear cousin, that I found my heart expand, my notions enlarge, my thoughts and sentiments take another turn, in proportion as I felt my love for that amiable girl increase. I was another Cymon, and Adeline was my Iphigene. When every thing was in readiness for their reception, I began to consult the means how to entice them thither. I had endeavoured to render myself agreeable to Adeline, and, from what I could perceive, I was not disappointed. Every enquiry I could make of William gave me no satisfaction, for he could gain nothing of their sentiments towards me. All he could say of them was, he believed they were angels; but they never spoke to the servants of any thing that did not belong to their business. It cost me much consultation with my pillow in what manner I should open myself to Adeline, or whether it would be preferable to speak to her mother. They were strangers to me,
and

and I would have forfeited all my earthly hopes for the possession of Adeline. How miserable should I have been in losing her! After much deliberation I proposed opening myself to her mother, by telling her the affection I had for her daughter; and if the gratification of it was incompatible with her future hopes in life, I must resign myself to despair; but if it was not, I should most likely make her my friend.

With a firm resolution to explain myself to Mrs. Clarinton, I repaired to her house, and taking an opportunity of speaking to her alone, told her I had something for her private ear, if she would give me liberty of communicating it. She led me to a little summer-house at the end of her garden, and when we were seated, desired me to mention whatever I had to say, as we could not be interrupted there. As I had nothing to say which ho-
nour.

nour and honesty might not warrant, I proceeded without any hesitation.

‘ I have made bold to demand this private conference with you, madam, to treat of a matter of the greatest importance to my future happiness. I will open the business at once. From the first moment I saw your charming daughter, I loved her,—I wish to be united to her by the most solemn and tenderest ties, and beg your permission to address her, if she is not otherwise engaged, and prevail on her, if possible, to return a passion that will destroy me if not requited. You have heard of my family and my expectations, but I don’t mention this as proving myself worthy of Adeline ; all I mean, is to prove my passion is entirely disinterested, and that I shall have a sufficient fortune to support Adeline, if not in the greatest splendor, at least in the road of happiness and plenty.’

Mrs.

Mrs. Clarinton remained silent: my heart drew the most mournful presages from it.

‘ Ah! Madam, if Adeline is engaged, if there is another more happy in her good opinion than I am, do not hesitate to inform me of it. I will bear my misfortune as well as I can; and though I shall be forbidden to think of her as a lover, do not deny me the happiness of being her friend—Ah, speak, madam, and put an end to my anxiety. I would not attempt to address her without your permission, and your answer shall determine me.’

‘ I thank you for the compliment you have paid me, Mr. Harper,’ said she, ‘ and did not expect any thing else from your behaviour than what was proper and candid. I am no stranger to your passion for my daughter.’

I started.

‘ You

‘You need not be surpris’d,’ continued she, smiling; ‘your eyes have told me all that passes in your heart. Had I disappointed it, you had not been welcome here. I flatter myself that Adeline does not conceal her sentiments from me; if she is engaged to any body it is totally without my knowledge, and you may endeavour to find it out when you please. You have my permission.’

‘How shall I thank you? How shall I express my obligations to you, Madam?’

‘By treating Adeline well when she is in your power. You may judge of my good opinion of you, when I trust you with all that is dear to me in this world. May that hour be my last when I forfeit your esteem.’

‘I trust you will not,’ said she; ‘but I believe the regard I have conceived for you, has hurried me into an indiscretion in this matter. You are young, and she

‘ is scarce eighteen ; an age by no means
‘ fit to commence the duties of a wife in ;
‘ besides, if it were, you have not your
‘ father’s consent, which, I must own, will
‘ be very material. And another circum-
‘ stance, which will weigh more than any
‘ other is, that Adeline has little or no for-
‘ tune. You will expect a dowry with a
‘ wife adequate to your estate : and your
‘ father will never consent to your mar-
‘ rying without a portion.’

‘ My father, Madam, though he is at-
‘ tached to his interest, would not see me
‘ unhappy, I believe, when it is in his
‘ power to remedy it. Adeline is a for-
‘ tune in herself ! that is the least and most
‘ trivial consideration, and what I beg may
‘ not be mentioned again. I hope you
‘ will not tell her of our conversation, lest
‘ she should think I came back’d with
‘ your authority, which might induce her
‘ to give me her hand without her heart :
‘ let

‘let me win that, Madam, and your consent will then sanctify her choice.’

‘It shall be as you please,’ said she. ‘But let me assure you, Mr. Harper, that my apprehensions are very serious concerning this Ingram, and I know not what to do. I cannot live in this state of uneasiness, and must request you to find some other place for me to remove to as far from his neighbourhood as you can. I have some reasons for preferring to live in the country: and as this is very distant from the metropolis, and a cheap place, it is more agreeable to me.’

‘Madam,’ said I, ‘after what has passed, it will not be deemed impertinent in me to say, that the welfare and happiness of your family is my chiefest concern. I have no interest of my own that can come in competition with Adeline’s safety, and your repose. Since ever this affair happened, and you have been complaining of this situation, my thoughts
‘turned

‘turned on an house, which you will find
‘extremely convenient; and I believe it
‘will be agreeable, from the little improve-
‘ments about it; but it is buried in the
‘midst of mountains, and in a solitude
‘that is dismal.’

‘The more retired the better,’ said she.

‘Is it far from hence?’

‘It is a good way, and very remote
‘from Mr. Ingram. It is furnished: but
‘there are many things wanting that your
‘furniture will supply, which will be ne-
‘cessary, as you cannot easily have assist-
‘ance there.’

‘But, perhaps, Sir, the expence of
‘maintaining such an house may be more
‘than I would chuse to incur, and the
‘rent may be more than I should like to
‘pay.’

‘Neither, indeed.—I will appoint a day
‘to shew you the house, and if you like it,
‘the whole shall be settled to your ap-
‘probation.’

‘I

‘ I admire your description of its solitude. But are you not concerned in this house ?’

‘ Don’t think the worse of me, Madam : I will not tell you a falsehood. It is mine—and was the residence of a much-esteemed uncle of mine who left it to me ; and so great is my regard to his memory, that I designed to keep it for ever to myself ; but as it will be the most eligible place you can retire to I offer it to you. You shall be my tenant, and I will give you a lease of it.’

‘ As it is your’s, I will depend upon you, and go to it when you shall have it ready. Whatever terms you propose I shall agree to. You see that I throw myself wholly into your hands.’

‘ You bind me to your service by the generosity of your proceedings : but do not let your daughter know for a time that you are going to my house. I would

‘ en-

‘endeavour to banish suspicion from her
 ‘breast: the thought of returning an ob-
 ‘ligation is repugnant to love.’

‘Well, well, you must be pleased, and
 ‘I will give you the encouragement to
 ‘say, that Adeline thinks very often of
 ‘you; but as you may perhaps imagine
 ‘it very odd that we who are strangers in
 ‘this country should settle here, as you
 ‘have done my daughter the honour of
 ‘proposing for her, it will be necessary to
 ‘explain to you the motives that induced
 ‘us to come down here, and wish to bury
 ‘ourselves in the deepest solitude: it is
 ‘but returning your compliment in mak-
 ‘ing you acquainted with our circum-
 ‘stances. But Adeline will wonder at our
 ‘long stay here, and will perhaps join us:
 ‘let us prevent her.’

She rose to go to the house, and I fol-
 lowed her; nor would she permit me to re-
 turn her those thanks her kindness deserved.
 By the time we reached the house, dinner

was

was prepared for us, and that prevented Mrs. Clarinton's communicating what had passed to her daughter. When the things were removed, she told Adeline of our conversation concerning the house; and added, that though removing was attended with a great deal of trouble, yet it was necessary, upon her account, to get out of Mr. Ingram's neighbourhood.

'Ah, Madam,' returned Adeline, 'I am the unhappy cause of all your trouble!'

'No, my child,' replied her mother, 'you are my greatest happiness.'

These words were mysterious, and the conversation was again changed to this house, which Mrs. Clarinton said, I had been at the trouble of procuring them, and expressed her obligations to me upon that account.

'Ah,' said Adeline, 'I know not how we shall make Mr. Harper amends for
' the

‘the extraordinary pains he takes about us.’

‘Permitting me to visit you sometimes will be sufficient reward.’

‘Your company will give us the greatest pleasure.’

She blushed as she spoke, and feared she had gone too far. I thanked her for her compliment, and promising that I would give them notice when I would come for them, desired them to have every thing prepared to go at once, and not give the neighbourhood the least intimation where they were going. Accordingly when every thing was ready, I gave them notice by letter, that I should be with them on the next morning but one, with a carriage. When I arrived there by break of day they were prepared, and William took care of the furniture which was conveyed in a waggon, and of Mrs. Clarinton’s servants. As the distance was so great, I proposed that they should sleep at the farm-

farm-house where we lay, and the next morning go to their retreat.

As it was the spring of the year, and our road lay across the country, and was very bad, it was night before we reached the farm-house; but it was the happiest journey I ever made — Confined in the same carriage with my Adeline. Every moment my heart throbbed with joy as I touched her. It was this opportunity Mrs. Clarinton took, during our journey, to acquaint me with her history.

‘It may seem odd to you, Mr. Harper,’ said she, ‘that persons, who seem to be conversant with the scenes of life, should chuse a retirement so distant from all the fashionable pleasures of the world; and that my daughter, who is in the bloom of youth, should be hurried from that centre of amusements, and buried in a lonely solitude: but however agreeable a residence in the metropolis might have been in the midst of our friends and acquaintance

'quaintance, and where we had been long
 'known, yet cogent reasons compel us to
 'forake it, and seek for safety in a retreat.
 'Though it is very irksome to me to dis-
 'cover the faults of any person nearly re-
 'lated to Adeline, which must be the con-
 'sequence of informing you of the cause
 'of our visiting this country; yet the care
 'you have shewn of us, and the friend-
 'ship you are so kind to profess for us,
 'would make me appear ungrateful to con-
 'ceal from you those circumstances which
 'you should know. I have Adeline's per-
 'mission; for as she is the principal person
 'concerned in it, I would not disoblige
 'her by communicating it without her
 'leave; but the regard she has for you
 'will not let her prevent my telling you;
 'and when you know the whole, there
 'will be no occasion to desire you to keep
 'it secret.'

I am the widow of a younger brother of a noble family in this kingdom. Mr. Clarinton, when he married me, was possessed of a lucrative post at court, and my fortune, which was considerable, assisted him very much; for his estate was but small, and his whole dependance was on the favour of his sovereign. The greatest part of his estate was settled on me as a jointure, which I enjoy now, and which Adeline will possess at my death. As our union was occasioned by reciprocal affection, you may suppose that we were as happy as any two people, blessed with youth and love, could be in our situation: indeed his fondness for me, induced him to be more expensive than I wished him, but my remonstrances could not stop the profusion of his kindness. Adeline was the first fruit of our love; and of three other children, she alone survives: our whole care was therefore centered in her: and I must pay that tribute to his memo-

ry,

ry, to say, he was the fondest father, the kindest husband. During his life I was a stranger to every care, nor knew sorrow till the hour in which I was deprived of him. He died when Adeline was just fifteen, and left his affairs in a very embarrassed situation. As all he had died with him, I found myself obliged to lay down the equipage he kept for me, and step at once from the affluence, or rather superfluity in which we lived, and descended to the possession of a bare competency; yet this did not grieve me on my own account so much as Adeline's, who would now lose every advantage which my former enjoyment of fortune would have given her. My late husband's eldest brother is Lord G———. We had been upon very friendly terms while he remained in the kingdom; but a few years before his brother's death, he went abroad upon some occasion or another, perhaps for his health, or to recruit his finances: for as

he was of an expensive turn, he had greatly impaired his estate, and thinking to live at an easier rate abroad than at home, he remained several years out of the kingdom, giving his estate time to clear itself. His return was soon after his brother's decease, and about the time when I found myself obliged to descend from that rank I had held in life as his brother's wife. He paid me a visit the day after his arrival, and offered me compliments of condolance; assuring me at the same time of his good wishes for my welfare, and that he would prove himself a friend as well as a brother, desiring me to use his interest and command his services. To Adeline he behaved in a most affectionate, and tender manner, telling her he would be a father to her in the room of the one she lost, and bidding her depend upon him for her future establishment in life, with a promise of calling soon on me again. He went away: and I who knew sufficiently

sufficiently how little dependance should be had on the promises of the great, conceived his professions to be little more than words of course, and accordingly took measures in my own mind as if he had not tendered his service. The wretched seldom find friends who want them most, the happy and affluent are never without them. Adeline, whose inexperience caused her to rely more on appearances, took her uncle's part, and by her being so sanguine in his behalf gave me some comfort, and bad me hope that he might really serve me. She was sure, she said, that he would do what he had promised, and that he could not mean to deceive us; that his offers of service, and professions of kindness were all voluntary, and unsolicited by us; therefore she could not think him so bad. I did not attempt to undeceive her, as I thought the delusion would vanish time enough, and we should be left too soon in that painful situation, which will not ad-

mit of hope; but I was much surprized to see Lord G—— come again the next day but one, and enter very minutely into the situation in which his brother had left his affairs. The attention which he paid to every circumstance, and the measures he proposed for extricating affairs out of their difficulties, and delivering me from the troubles which surrounded me, were the most reasonable and judicious that could be executed. He frequently visited me to settle my affairs, and by selling off every thing, I found there was enough to discharge all Mr. Clarinton's debts, leaving me my jointure of one hundred and twenty pounds a year, and about fifteen hundred pounds remaining for Adeline. I changed my manner of living, lessened my expence, dismissed the greatest part of my servants, and began to live in the narrow circle that my affairs permitted. When I had established myself, and gave up all my thoughts to the improvement of Adeline, her uncle came to me one day,

day, and after approving the steps I had taken, began to open the situation of his own affairs to me : assured me how sorry he was that the embarrassment of his circumstances would not permit him to add something to the small stipend which had been settled on me, but that it was totally out of his power. I interrupted him by saying, I had no expectation of any such thing, and that his friendship was all I had to desire from him ; that he had given, already such proofs of his regard to his brother's memory, by assisting me so powerfully in the adjusting his affairs, that I could not sufficiently express my obligations to him for it.

‘ Do not mention it any more my dear sister,’ said he : ‘ but though I cannot do any thing for you myself, I have had interest enough to procure you some little addition to your income. Upon my representation of your late husband’s services to his Majesty, and the distressed si-

‘tuition in which he has left you and his daughter, he has been graciously pleased to order you a pension of two hundred pounds a year.’

At the same time he presented me with the warrant for receiving it.

‘Oh, my Lord, you overwhelm me with your goodness.’

‘Say no more, say no more,’ said he: ‘you deserve a much larger provision, and it is a pity Adeline should want those accomplishments befitting her birth, and the rank I hope yet to see her raised to.’

‘Adeline,’ said I, ‘thank your uncle for his extraordinary kindness to us.’

The dear girl rose. He started up to prevent her: and catching her in his arms, embraced her with great warmth, calling her at the same time his dearest child. Upon inquiring into the state of her improvements, and hearing that her poor father had spared no expence or pains in her education,

cation, he begged to hear her performances on the harpsichord. He commended her playing very much, and ran into raptures with her voice; but having a very fine ear and a good judgment, which was improved by his long residence abroad, he observed that she was not quite perfect; but as the attendance of proper masters would be very expensive, and more than I could afford, he insisted upon sending instructors to her who would make her compleat, and hoped he might be permitted sometimes to be a witness to the progress she made. He was as good as his word, and Adeline answered his expectations. He was always at our house; and declared he could call no place his home so much as our residence, because he then thought himself always with his family. His carriage was always at our service: and his frequent presents to us of many costly things amply recompensed the expence his visits occasioned. Our gratitude, and the opinion that he

was our best friend, ever made us meet him with a welcome : and he declared he was not so happy any where as with us. He escorted us to every place of public amusement, when decency permitted me to appear abroad : and his taking such notice of us gained us respect in the eye of the world, which is ever taken by outward shews. But this great friendship proceeded from another cause, and a most detestable one. This wretched man had conceived a criminal passion for his own niece, and he was consumed with the incestuous fire which his impure desire had kindled in his bosom. Prejudiced in his favour from the many acts of generosity he exerted towards me, I could not entertain so bad an opinion of him. I was blind to the effects of his passion : and those embraces which he so frequently bestowed upon Adeline, I foolishly attributed to the natural affection he had for her. From the frequent appearance of Adeline
in

in public, a gentleman of large fortune and elevated rank was pleased with her; and inquiring concerning her, was so well satisfied with the character she bore, that he waited on me one morning, and desired to speak to me in private. He informed me of the cause of his visit, and of the honourable passion he had conceived for my daughter; that he should think himself extremely happy in being permitted to pay his addresses to her, and prevail on her to become his wife. He proceeded to inform me of his circumstances, and mentioned a very liberal settlement which he proposed to make on her; desired I might make inquiries into his character, and he hoped that he should not be found unworthy of the honour of being allied to me. I thanked him for his polite and generous offer, to which I had nothing to object on my part, except Adeline's extreme youth; but that Lord G——, her uncle and her best friend, would expect to be consulted on a matter

of so great importance to his niece's welfare, and therefore begged leave to postpone giving him a definitive answer till I had informed him of the honour intended my daughter. He was very well satisfied, and took his leave. When Lord G— came the next day, I informed him of what had passed: and must own then, though I did not in the least suspect the cause of it, that I was much surpris'd at the concern he shewed in his countenance when I told him of this affair: his colour changed several times, and he appeared extremely uneasy. I could not avoid taking notice of it to him: and asked if he knew any thing of the person, as he seem'd so greatly affected at this proposal. He denied that circumstance; but confessed, that in the disposal of his niece, great care ought to be taken, and that he would make the proper inquiries after the person who aspir'd to be her husband, and let me know his character as soon as possible.

I was

I was very well satisfied with this; and in two days after he brought me word, that he was a rake and a gamester, and a very unfit match for Adeline: upon which I sent him a letter, declining, in the most civil manner I could, his offer, attributing the refusal to Adeline's youth, and her aversion to entering into the marriage state.

It was the usual custom of Lord G—— to take us out in a morning in his carriage for the air. He called one morning: but I was indisposed and would not go, but Adeline might if she pleased. She refused under pretence of staying at home to keep me company. I represented that it would be wrong to let her uncle go alone, and forced her out. I observed she was much altered on her return home, and that something had happened to give her uneasiness. As nothing was dearer to me than the welfare of my sweet child, I was alarmed, and demanded of her if she was well.

well. To which she replied she was. It then came into my head that her uncle had told her of the gentleman, who proposed for her, and he being her first lover, she was angry at not having been informed of this circumstance: for not approving of him myself, I thought it best not to tell her any thing of the matter: full of this supposition, I spoke and acted accordingly.

‘Well, Adeline, do not be uneasy, you shall have more lovers.’

‘I have too many already,’ replied she; and burst into tears.

My surprise and concern cannot be described. Her words concealed a mystery, and her tears bespoke her distress. I intreated her to explain herself to me: but she remained silent, nor could I prevail on her to tell me the cause of her uneasiness for a long time. At last, she informed me that she had for some time taken offence at the fondness her uncle had shewn for her,

her, and had shuned his embraces, as she was no longer a child, conceiving them improper, and unbecoming familiarities; that it was much against her inclination she went out with him that morning, for he had openly avowed his love for her, and tempted her to gratify it by the most liberal promises; that he had taken greater liberties with her than ever, and she besought me not to let her see him any more. My blood froze with horror at this account, and I told her she should never behold an object so disagreeable to her as her uncle must certainly be; at the same time I explained to her what had passed between us concerning the gentleman who had proposed for her; and concluded with saying, that I imagined Lord G—— had imposed upon me in his representations of his character, and that I would, if she pleased, recall him again. She assured me nothing was more contrary to her inclinations; and begged she might be permitted to

to remain with me. I did not encrease the poor child's apprehensions, by communicating my own fears of the uncle's power. We both kept our chamber the next day; and when he called were denied to him, as being ill and unable to see company. He promised to wait on us the next day, and in the mean time I determined how to act. So little was this bad man affected with his crimes, that he appeared before me quite unconcerned, complimented me on my recovery, telling me he was glad to see me down stairs again; and enquired after Adeline.

'She is indisposed, my Lord, and cannot be seen.'

'Proper advice should be had for her.'

'She will get well in a few days.'

'It is a pity she should suffer any ill,' said he.

I made no answer, and saw that he wanted to find out from me, whether Adeline had told me any thing that had passed.

This

This manner of acting puzzled him; he grew very uneasy, walked about the room, then sat down, seemed as if he had a mind to speak at one time, and then check'd himself, and held his tongue. His whole behaviour clearly shewed the perturbation of his mind.

'It is a great pity any thing should ail her,' said he, repeating his words with a sigh: 'I am as fond of her as her father could be.'

This speech threw me off my guard, and I found my patience at an end.

'Yes,' said I, tauntingly, 'but it is with another kind of affection.'

He started, and stopped short in the middle of the room. He looked at me for some time before he spoke, and a variety of emotions were expressed in his countenance. At length the violence of his unnatural passion put shame, honour, and religion to flight, and he avowed his love for my daughter: yes, Mr. Harper, he

he had the assurance to declare his criminal
flame for his brother's child to her mo-
ther: nay more, he had the villainy to
think I might be tempted to consent to
the gratification of it, by his dazzling
offers. The acrimony of my answer to
him, deprived him of all hopes, and shew-
ed him the sense I entertained of him. I
upbraided him with the folly and baseness
of his attempt. He was not to be affected
with any thing I said to him. He denied
any guilt in his conduct, and was so far
from feeling any compunction, that he
openly threatened to leave no stone unturn'd
to effect his design; and then reproached
me with my ingratitude to him after the
many favours he had conferred upon me.
My reply to him was of the most provoking
nature; words rose very high between us,
and he swore to be revenged of me, as he
rushed out of the house in a rage not to be
described. My anger and abhorrence of
his guilt, which supported my spirits in his
pre-

presence, forsook me when he left me. My affection for my daughter overcame every other consideration: and my fears for her safety, from the knowledge of her uncle's power, gave me the most dreadful uneasiness. I ran up stairs to the chamber where the trembling child remained, in a state of the utmost anxiety, waiting my return to know the issue of the conference between her persecutor and me. I threw myself on her neck, and by my tears gave a vent to my bursting heart. Adeline sympathized with me, for she felt my sorrows. I found sufficient speech at length to acquaint her with what had passed. We consulted what was to be done, and found no other means of disappointing either his revenge, or his guilty passion, than by escaping from his power. We put the most speedy methods of doing it in execution. An old faithful domestic of my late husband's, a native of this country, on whose fidelity we had the greatest reliance,

was

was employed to look for some safe retreat for us, and pitched upon the house we have just quitted. A person was found who took all my furniture off at once, except such parts of it as I chose to retain, which were but few. I thus got rid of my greatest concerns. The hour of our flight was fixed, and I again began to hope for security. The evening previous to our departure, I wrote a letter to the minister of state, by whose assistance the pension was granted me, whom I had been acquainted with in Mr. Clarinton's lifetime; and after returning him my thanks for the trouble he had taken on my account, begged leave to resign the pension again into his hands; hoped he would not be offended, but I had particular reasons for acting thus, which Lord G—— would inform him of, if he should be desirous of knowing them. A gentleman whom I could depend on has undertaken to receive and remit my jointure to me, and he also has placed

placed Adeline's fortune at interest. Thus were my affairs settled when I fled from the metropolis in the dead of the night. Yes, innocence and virtue were obliged to fly from powerful guilt. For near a year did we live in that house in which you saw us; in peace and tranquility we remained, till Mr. Ingram first disturbed us. But his attempts I should despise, had I not fear'd a more dreadful enemy. I imagined I saw a face that I recollected in Lord G——'s retinue ride by the house, a few days ago, who looked more narrowly and attentively at it than mere curiosity could warrant. This alarmed me, and awakened all my fears; for I had received intelligence from a friend in London, that Lord G—— has not given over the search he made since our escape. This circumstance was not known to Adeline before this moment: and this was the cause why I so readily took your account of the house you have procured for us, and have thus thrown myself

myself upon your protection; and now I believe you will think with me, that it is necessary to be secret and retired.

‘Ah, Madam,’ said Adeline, as her mother ended, ‘why would you not tell me of your suspicions? why would you not inform me of your fears, that I, who occasion you this trouble, may also partake of?’

‘I had rather suffer alone,’ replied the good lady, ‘than give you any cause of sorrow. We shall escape from your unnatural uncle’s rage and revenge.’

‘They can never reach you in the retirement that I shall provide for you,’ Madam,’ said I: ‘I will warrant your safety at the hazard of life, happy in having an opportunity of venturing it to assure the safety of those who are dearer to me.’

I could go no farther: my voice failed me, nor could I speak for some time after.

But

But the subject was changed. I was sensible that Mrs Clarinton must have thought highly of me, by imparting the secrets of her family to me, and that by taking away Adeline's reserve, we should soon find opportunities of knowing each other's sentiments. The event proved it.

We arrived at the farm-house as the night shut in, and they could form no idea of the country. They found every thing prepared for their reception, and were very well pleased at the cleanness of their apartment, and simplicity of their fare. I could not avoid imposing on them a little, by hinting that they were not to expect to see a much better house than they were then in.

'Any where that we can hide ourselves, Mr. Harper,' said Mrs. Clarinton, 'must be agreeable. A cottage that was inhabitable would exceed my ambition, if security dwelt with it.'

The

The next morning we proposed to go to the house, but they were much surprised to see themselves in the neighbourhood of mountains, whose tops were yet covered with snow. This gave them but an indifferent opinion of the place, and their new habitation. However, it was a most pleasant morning, and we set out to take possession; but they were obliged to alight and walk when they came within a mile of the house. Here I had the happiness of supporting the charming Adeline's steps, who was surprised at the romantic grandeur and wildness of the adjacent hills. Their countenances plainly shewed that they doubted my information, and that they should find themselves very badly off. However, the sight of the trees in the bottom gave them some pleasure, and it was increased when they heard their situation was near them. But I cannot express their surprise when they found a neat and pretty house, furnished in a most commodious manner,

manner, abounding with conveniencies; a garden laid out in the most elegant taste, and kept in the nicest order; the flowers of the spring rising to welcome them, and the songs of birds adding to their delight. This was a little fairy land to them, and though Adeline was complaining of being weary before she arrived there, yet she was not tired of running about that delightful place, or of praising it. Such an entertainment as the country could afford was prepared for them, and they declared themselves extremely happy in their situation: to have pleased my Adeline was a sufficient reward for all I had done. Their servant arrived the day after with their goods, and then I took my leave of them, not without receiving many invitations from them both, to renew my visit as often as I could make it agreeable to myself.

‘I have already been tedious,’ continued Harper, ‘and I will shorten my tale.’

The lovely Adeline became acquainted

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I

soon

soon after with my passion for her, which I was unable to conceal. She returned it with mutual ardour. I am the happiest of mankind, and she the fairest, the most charming of her sex. Every hour her beauties improve in my eye, and her mental perfections acquire fresh strength every day. Convinced of her affection, I only endeavour to make myself worthy of it; and am determined, if I can gain my father's consent, to unite myself to her for life very soon. I have already sounded him, but find him totally averse to a match without fortune, and I question whether he will think Adeline's a sufficiency for his eldest son. I could content myself with my uncle's estate if Adeline was not concerned, but the hope of making her happy in the possession of affluence, and placing her in a station which she will do honour to, influences my conduct. But though my father is averse at present, I have great reason to think there may be ways of reconciling

conciling

conciling him to it. However, till I am convinced there is a proper opportunity of breaking the matter to him, it shall remain a secret.

“ This relation, and the conversation it
 “ introduced, shortened our way home.
 “ To a man in love, nothing is so pleasing
 “ as that which corresponds with his own
 “ sentiments; for that reason I prevailed
 “ on my friend to repeat all the tender
 “ parts of his story, and describe the ma-
 “ ny rapturous interviews he had with
 “ Adeline, when their souls were dissolved
 “ in love and softness. I anticipated the
 “ same scenes of delight with Miss Colson,
 “ and by this conversation with the ena-
 “ moured Harper, became more in love
 “ than ever. I admired the generosity of
 “ his sentiments, and envied his being able
 “ to shew the greatness of his affection,
 “ when my narrow circumstances, and the
 “ uncertainty of future expectations, de-

“ barred me from doing any such things.
“ When we arrived at his father’s, he re-
“ lapsed into his former indifference, his
“ whole soul being engrossed by the charm-
“ ing idea of Adeline. Our evening walks
“ were ever in the most retired places,
“ where we talked of her; our whole con-
“ versation was love; his, exulting in the
“ beauty, the affection, the fidelity of
“ Adeline; mine, in complaining of the
“ coldness, the severity, and the beauty of
“ Nancy Colson. My suit with her pro-
“ ceeded very slowly; however, she was
“ not so averse to it as she first appeared to
“ be, but I received very little encourage-
“ ment. Harper made several journeys to
“ his farm, under pretence of business,
“ but his stay was ever very short; and
“ constantly were the regards of the charm-
“ ing family at Ganton, the name of their
“ house, presented to me. I prevailed on
“ my friend to let me pay them another
“ visit before I left the country, and had
“ the

“ the pleasure of assuring them again how
 “ much I was concerned in their welfare,
 “ and interested in their happiness. Cold
 “ as my mistress was, yet I had hopes
 “ of winning her, and that is ever most
 “ agreeable which costs us most trouble. I
 “ flattered myself with as much delight
 “ with her, as my friend had with his
 “ Adeline. My studies recalled me to Ox-
 “ ford, but I could not obtain permission
 “ from Miss Colson to write to her; all I
 “ could persuade her to say was, that she
 “ would not forget me; and as I had re-
 “ ceived an invitation to spend the ensuing
 “ vacation at Mr. Harper’s, I should soon
 “ see her again, and try to overcome her
 “ aversion to love. No alterations had
 “ happened in my father’s family, and, ex-
 “ cept the additional uneasiness I felt from
 “ my unreturn’d attachment to Miss Col-
 “ son, I had nothing else to distress me.
 “ I thought the hours would never expire
 “ that intervened; I reckoned them all,

“ and computed every day how much
“ nearer I was to seeing her than the pre-
“ ceding. Nothing could exceed my anx-
“ ious expectation, or my impatience.
“ The only comfort I had was from my
“ cousin’s letters, who frequently wrote to
“ me, and informed me that she had not
“ favoured any of her lovers more than
“ me. This still revived my hopes. At
“ length the day came that gave me free-
“ dom to return to see her in whom my
“ happiness was reposed. I was received
“ by Harper’s family with much hospita-
“ lity; my worthy friend, more particu-
“ larly was rejoiced at my visiting him
“ again, for I was his only confident. My
“ eagerness to see Miss Colson would not
“ permit me to refrain a day from paying
“ my respects to her. She also seemed glad
“ to see me, and was more complacent than
“ ever. I prophesied the most favourable
“ consequences from her behaviour, and
“ soon were my hopes gratified, by re-
“ ceiving

“ceiving from her the most pleasing af-
 “surances of my having made an impres-
 “sion on her heart. My assiduities and
 “attention fanned the spark I had kindled
 “into a flame, and I met the most grate-
 “ful return to my passion. A woman’s
 “reserve is like an eggshell, when it is
 “once broke through there is no repairing
 “it again; nor is it possible to prevent the
 “contents from running out. Miss Col-
 “son made me ample amends for her
 “former cruelty by her fondness, and ex-
 “traordinary affection for me. I was as
 “happy now as any one could be, and I
 “envied my friend neither his fortune or
 “his Adeline, to whom we paid two visits
 “in a short time after I arrived in the
 “country. In the midst of the raptures,
 “which the enjoyment of the pure de-
 “lights of virtuous love ever occasion in
 “youthful hearts, I received a letter, for-
 “warded to me from Oxford by a friend,
 “which informed me that my father was

“ dangerously ill, and not expected to live ;
 “ that he desired to see me, and I was re-
 “ quested, if I had any regard to my own
 “ interests, to make what expedition I
 “ could up to town. This news was dis-
 “ tressing to me on many accounts. I loved
 “ and honoured my father, as much as I
 “ had reason to detest my unnatural and
 “ partial mother. His loss, who was my
 “ only dependance, was the destruction of
 “ all my hopes, and even depriving me of
 “ the means of support. It was my duty
 “ and my interest to obey the direction of
 “ the letter I had received ; but then I
 “ must quit Miss Colson, which gave me
 “ much uneasiness on the other hand.
 “ However, I considered this separation
 “ would be only for a short time, and the
 “ means of insuring me the possession of her
 “ I loved ; and therefore I was determined
 “ to depart for London, with the stage
 “ coach, which set out the next day but one
 “ after. I went as usual to pay my com-
 “ pliments

“pliments to my mistress in the evening,
 “and she perceived that something ex-
 “traordinary had affected me : her enqui-
 “ries soon reach’d the truth, and on my ac-
 “quainting her with the necessity for my
 “appearance in town, she seemed very
 “uneasy. I made fresh protestations to
 “her, renewed all my vows, and endea-
 “voured, by every means in my power,
 “to convince her of my fidelity, and the
 “unalterable passion I professed for her.

‘Ah,’ said she, ‘I have heard so much
 ‘of the ladies in town, that I have reason
 ‘to fear your change. The variety of
 ‘beauties you will meet there, will soon
 ‘put the remembrance of a poor simple
 ‘country girl out of your head.’

“My reply consisted only of promises
 “of my sincerity, and assurances of my
 “love.”

‘I am willing to believe you,’ replied
 she; ‘but my apprehensions get the better
 ‘of my good opinion of your faith, and

“ I cannot help wishing that you were secured to me, as you have professed loving me for life.”

“ This hint surprised me, it was what
“ my most sanguine hopes could not have
“ aspired to, for though it was entirely
“ correspondent to my wishes, yet it was
“ a proposal I dared not have made myself. I snatched her to my bosom, and
“ called her mine indeed, nay offered to
“ stay and marry her. This she would
“ not consent to, as it would have a bad
“ appearance in the eye of the world, especially as my father’s situation was so
“ critical. However, as her wish was only to have me hers, she would consent
“ that the ceremony should be performed
“ privately if I could get any friend to
“ do it. Though I had no acquaintance
“ with any body in the country, who would
“ oblige me so far, yet I did not hesitate in
“ saying that I would contrive it; and
“ taking my leave of her, informed her
“ that

“ that she should have notice the next day.
 “ To bring this about I had no other
 “ means than informing Harper of the
 “ whole affair, and entreating his assist-
 “ ance. He was extremely well pleased
 “ at the favourable issue of my affairs,
 “ and promised to do every thing in his
 “ power to help me. We went together
 “ to the curate of the parish where he
 “ then lived, and founded him whether
 “ he would willingly do him a service.
 “ The curate, who respected my friend, as
 “ his father had the right of presentation to
 “ the living, readily agreed to do any thing.
 “ The matter was opened to him, and the
 “ time when and place where was to
 “ be settled with Miss Colson, before I
 “ could set him right in more particulars.
 “ As I was obliged to go off early the next
 “ morning, she promised to meet at twelve
 “ that night in a stable adjoining to her
 “ father’s house. I waited with the ut-
 “ most impatience for the hour that was

“ to confirm me in the possession of her
“ hand and heart: it arrived at length.
“ I had taken my leave of Mr. Harper’s
“ family as I was to lie at an inn from
“ whence the coach set out in the morning,
“ and as the hour approached, went to the
“ appointed place with the clergyman, where
“ I found my bride. We plighted our
“ faith in the sight of heaven: the worthy
“ ecclesiastic pronounced the nuptial bene-
“ diction, and retired. I spent an hour
“ with my wife, who now released from
“ her former restraint professed the great-
“ est affection for me; our parting was
“ not without tears on both sides: at last,
“ considering that I had a good way to go
“ before I reached my inn, and could pos-
“ sibly take no rest that night, having but
“ just time to secure the carriage, I tore
“ myself from her, and with mutual vows
“ of eternal constancy and love we sepa-
“ rated. I pursued my journey, and ar-
“ rived in London without any accident.

“ I sent

“ I sent to my father’s house, and had the
 “ mortification and grief to find that I
 “ was come too late to see him alive, and
 “ only time enough to assist at his funeral.
 “ With some difficulty I found out the
 “ woman that had nursed me, and she
 “ gave me but poor hopes of the provi-
 “ sion my father had made for me ; as she
 “ feared he had been prevailed on, when
 “ dispirited with his illness and weak, to
 “ make a will in favour of his younger
 “ son. This gave me very great uneasi-
 “ ness, and more particularly as I had a
 “ wife, whom I loved, and upon whose
 “ fortune I could not in honour lay my
 “ entire dependance. That I might not
 “ suffer by my own negligence I went to
 “ my mother’s house, and not being known
 “ to any of the servants was admitted.
 “ My name was carried up to my mother,
 “ whose rage and resentment were kindled
 “ anew at the sound : and severely reprimanding the servant, (as he informed
 “ me)

“ me) for letting me into the house, sent
“ word to me that she had no sort of bu-
“ siness with me, but if I wanted to know
“ what I had to depend on, to call upon
“ her attorney, whose address she gave
“ me, and he would satisfy my curiosity:
“ to him therefore I went, as I had no
“ other remedy. The proud son of chi-
“ canery, knowing my mother’s aversion
“ to me, treated me with more contempt
“ than I thought became him, and I was
“ obliged to tell him my opinion of him
“ before he mended his manners. At last
“ he condescended to acquaint me that
“ my father had sold his estate in his life-
“ time, and that he had left me one thou-
“ sand pounds. My surprise and indig-
“ nation rendered me speechless, and it
“ was some time before I could recover
“ myself. I then plainly told him there
“ was some fraud in the matter, which I
“ was determined to find out if it cost me
“ the whole legacy. He told me I might
“ do

“ do as I pleased, but that I had better
 “ not throw away any of the small pit-
 “ tance which was left me; but if I chose
 “ to send any man of business to him, he
 “ would give him every satisfaction I could
 “ require. I thought that my readiest
 “ way: and having employed an attorney,
 “ he informed me that he had looked
 “ over all the affairs and papers, and
 “ though he could not find any thing ex-
 “ ceptionable in the deeds, yet he had the
 “ greatest room to suppose that some arti-
 “ fices had been made use of to prevail
 “ on my father to sell his estate, and leave
 “ me a legacy so extremely disproportion-
 “ nate: he added, like an honest man,
 “ that it would be contrary to his advice
 “ if I attempted to litigate the will, which
 “ would only lead me into expences with-
 “ out a probability of doing myself any
 “ service. I thanked him for his friend-
 “ ship which I was determined to make
 “ the right use of, and desired to know
 “ when

“ when even that legacy would be paid
 “ me. He told me he was informed that
 “ I was to be kept out of it as long as
 “ possible, the law allowing them a year
 “ and a day under pretence that my fa-
 “ ther died in debt, and that they could
 “ not pay any legacies till they had a true
 “ state of his affairs. His information
 “ made me perceive plainly that my mo-
 “ ther was determined to ruin me if she
 “ could ; and to tell the truth, she com-
 “ pletely effected it. I had been detained
 “ now above three weeks in town, and my
 “ business required my presence at Oxford.
 “ During this absence from my wife, I had
 “ written several letters to her, and she had
 “ returned me but one short answer, im-
 “ plying want of time to write more. This
 “ added to my late disappointment, gave
 “ me very great trouble. I sat down, and
 “ in a very pathetic manner lamented the
 “ long absence I was obliged to suffer ; as-
 “ sured her of the trouble it occasioned
 “ me,

" me, and informed her of the situation
 " of my affairs, which, though contrary to
 " my wishes and expectations, was not ir-
 " remediable. I then told her, that I should
 " take orders very soon, as my cousin
 " Harper had some good livings in his
 " gift, and had promised to take care of
 " me as soon as any of them fell vacant.
 " That though we could not aspire to
 " wealth, yet we should always have a gen-
 " teel competence, and should be possessed
 " of content and happiness arising from
 " mutual affection, which would amply
 " compensate the want of other riches. I
 " informed her I was to set out the next
 " day for the university, as the term was
 " begun, and my attendance absolutely
 " necessary: thither I desired her answer
 " might be directed, which I expected,
 " and which would be the greatest com-
 " fort I could receive. I waited a long
 " time in hopes of receiving this answer.
 " Her silence filled me with anxiety, with
 " horror.

" horror. I concluded she was ill, una-
 " ble to write—that our secret had been
 " betrayed, and she was fallen under her
 " father's displeasure. At one time I
 " thought she was dead, and the reflection
 " almost killed me. I was in the most
 " dreadful and disagreeable state of un-
 " certainty, and I could neither sleep or
 " enjoy myself or any thing about me.
 " In this uneasy state I wrote to my cousin,
 " and conjured him, if he had any regard
 " for me, to let me know what was be-
 " come of my wife, for that I was the
 " most wretched of mankind from the
 " circumstance of not hearing from her.
 " The next post put an end to my doubts
 " and fears, though it was before I could
 " expect an answer to my letter from my
 " friend, yet I found it was from him,
 " and was surprized to find the beginning
 " of it contained reproaches and upbraid-
 " ings for having deceived him. Consci-
 " ous of my own integrity, and the warmth
 " of

“ of my affection for him, I could not
 “ conceive from whence he took occasion
 “ to accuse me; I threw down his letter,
 “ and endeavoured to recollect whether
 “ I had ever transgressed against my friend-
 “ ship for him, or had broke through the
 “ professions of regard I had so frequent-
 “ ly made to him. My own heart acquit-
 “ ted me of the charge, and I resumed
 “ his letter, well satisfied that he must
 “ be mistaken, or that some body was en-
 “ deavouring to sow dissention between us.
 “ The latter part of the epistle ran thus :

‘ While I paid a regard to your truth,
 ‘ I communicated to you all my affairs,
 ‘ even the inmost secrets of my heart; but
 ‘ what reliance can I have upon you, when
 ‘ you have slandered a young Lady whose
 ‘ character has been ever esteemed in this
 ‘ country, by declaring to me that you
 ‘ were wedded to her, when the day be-
 ‘ fore yesterday she was publicly married
 ‘ in

“ in the face of the church to a young gentleman of fortune and reputation in this neighbourhood. I have enquired of my friend the parson, and his answers are very mysterious. He seems much surprised at this affair, and says he must now rely upon your discretion. I cannot understand his meaning. I know him to be an honest man. I believe you to be one, and shall depend on you to explain this affair to me.”

“ It was no easy matter for me to do, for I was so astonished that I could scarcely believe the circumstance to be real. I treated it as an illusion, and was some time before I could look upon it in a serious light. The next day a letter came to me from the clergyman who had privately married us. He confirmed my cousin’s intelligence, and acquainted me with his great surprise at hearing the news : entreated me, as she was lost to me, not to ruin him by publishing

“ lishing the transactions between us, for
 “ as he had no fortune of his own, all
 “ his expectations from the bounty of an
 “ old and whimsical relation, which was
 “ all his dependance, would be entirely
 “ defeated, if he should be suspended or
 “ deprived of his gown, which he supposed
 “ would be the consequence of making
 “ this matter known. He added, and
 “ with a great deal of reason, that I could
 “ not suppose a Lady had any great re-
 “ gard for me, who would falsify her most
 “ solemn vows and wed another ; that he
 “ knew not, nor did desire to enquire in-
 “ to the cause of her alteration, but de-
 “ pended on my generosity, not to de-
 “ stroy all his hopes in the beginning of
 “ his life.”

“ The hint was sufficient for me, and
 “ my resolution was taken as soon as the
 “ letter was read. To clear myself to my
 “ friend I determined to inclose this last
 “ letter to him, which would be a suffi-
 “ cient

"cient explanation of my conduct. But
 "how could I explain hers — indeed I
 "could not at first account for it myself,
 "but after some consideration I hit upon
 "the right cause. I had been only a no-
 "minal husband to her, possessed only of
 "the title without assuming any of the rights
 "of one. This did not suit her constitu-
 "tion, and I ought to have known it.
 "My passion was founded upon the basis
 "of virtue and honour: I loved Miss Col-
 "son with the purest affection, and to
 "have her my wife was the extent of my
 "wishes. The imperfect and untimely
 "ceremony which I thought sufficient to
 "bind her mine, was void without the
 "more material part; but my regard for
 "her only made me respect her so much as
 "to abstain from those joys that my soul
 "longed for. If any accident should se-
 "parate us in case of my death, or in ma-
 "ny other circumstances, her character
 "must have suffered the stain of infamy,
 "and

“ and the issue of our honourable loves,
 “ would have been accounted base born.
 “ And even if our prior marriage had
 “ been revealed, it would not have pre-
 “ vented the censure of the world. I ex-
 “ pected to have been soon able to have
 “ made her my wife publickly, and till
 “ then thought her secure in the voluntary
 “ vows she had made to me: but my eyes
 “ were at last opened, and I found that a
 “ woman’s regard to honour or morality
 “ is very weak when her passions inter-
 “ vene.

“ In the first transports of my rage at
 “ her infidelity after the receipt of my
 “ cousin’s letter, I determined to go down
 “ to her house, unveil the whole mystery,
 “ and let her husband know what a wife
 “ he had gotten: this would have been
 “ an inadequate revenge for the trouble
 “ she had occasioned me, but it would
 “ have gratified my resentment in some
 “ measure. At another time I was resolv-
 “ ed

"ed to take satisfaction of her husband,
 "and wreak my vengeance on him. In
 "various ways my anger sought for re-
 "venge; but the letter from the curate
 "made me drop them all. I would not
 "ruin a worthy man who had taken a step
 "to serve me, that if known would hurt
 "him, for the sake of a worthless woman
 "whom I had the greatest reason to hate
 "and despise: upon his account therefore
 "I was resolved to keep it secret, only
 "letting my cousin know the truth of the
 "matter. When my rage subsided a lit-
 "tle, I still found myself weak enough
 "to think of the woman who had deceiv-
 "ed me, with tenderness. I was ashamed
 "of myself—I applied to my books to
 "enable me to forget her: in vain, her
 "remembrance still thwarted me, her
 "idea was uppermost in my thoughts,
 "and all my endeavours to banish it were
 "ineffectual. In this state I was when
 "Harper informed me that he had made

“ his father acquainted with his passion for
 “ Adeline, and that he had consented to
 “ their union; a circumstance, however,
 “ that gave him the more pleasure, as it
 “ was unexpected, and which was chiefly
 “ occasioned by Adeline’s being related to
 “ Lord G——, who was one of the most
 “ zealous of his party. He pressed me
 “ with great earnestness to assist at his nup-
 “ tials, and as a farther inducement to
 “ prevail on me, added, that both Adeline
 “ and her mother had desired to see me.

“ Though I had the most perfect regard
 “ for this whole family, and although they
 “ were possessed of my friendship, yet I
 “ could not go into that country again
 “ where I had so lately endured so disagree-
 “ able a disappointment; nor was I suffi-
 “ ciently cured to behold, without emotion,
 “ the places where I had seen the woman
 “ who had deceived me, and which would
 “ renew too forcibly the remembrance of
 “ her. I therefore declined his invitation,

“ and assigned such reasons for my refusal,
 “ as I knew he would not be offended
 “ with.

“ There was now an aching void left in
 “ my bosom, and how to fill it I knew not.
 “ The recollection of past pleasures still
 “ recurred to me, and still I was unhappy.
 “ Among my acquaintance was a young
 “ man, of the name of Dalton ; his father
 “ was a man of fortune, who nevertheless
 “ found it deficient to supply the demands
 “ of his extravagant son, for, with a taste
 “ for expence, he gratified every passion,
 “ having no notions of denying himself
 “ any thing he chose ; quite indifferent in
 “ what manner the means to do it with
 “ were acquired. His health had been
 “ greatly impaired by his irregularities, and
 “ his constitution almost broken. He had
 “ very good parts, he possessed great
 “ quickness, and his talents were rather
 “ shining than useful or solid : of a most
 “ specious manner and behaviour ; you
 “ would

“ would imagine him to have the most un-
 “ bounded generosity. His discourse was
 “ always of the sublimer virtues that en-
 “ noble the human composition, and his
 “ honour was never impeached. As he
 “ was extremely good-natured and oblig-
 “ ing, the imbecillity of his body, and the
 “ bad state of health that he was in, ex-
 “ cited pity in his friends. I was among
 “ them. He had taken a liking to me,
 “ and though my application to my studies
 “ had heretofore prevented my being in his
 “ parties, yet I was glad now to find him
 “ out, and join the jovial society that were
 “ generally about him. He looked upon
 “ this as a great acquisition, and as I was not
 “ possessed by the spirit of idleness and dis-
 “ sipation, he looked upon it as making a
 “ convert of me. I was soon initiated into
 “ the mysteries of their nocturnal rites,
 “ and as it was a scene of mirth, and some-
 “ times wit, before we became too noisy,
 “ it was often pleasing; at least their com-
 “ pany

“pany served to banish more disagreeable
 “thoughts, and the novelty and variety af-
 “forded me entertainment. Dalton’s ex-
 “cesses reduced his health every day. It
 “was judged necessary that he should go
 “abroad. He informed me of this cir-
 “cumstance, and asked me one day if I
 “would go along with him. I acknow-
 “ledged I should like the jaunt very well,
 “but objected to the expence of it. He
 “told me that should be made very easy.
 “Upon that condition I engaged to accom-
 “pany him, but still it was attended with
 “more expence to me than I could well
 “bear: but I did not consider that then. We
 “staid upwards of six months abroad, but
 “Dalton returned worse then ever. As he
 “had no other delights than in society,
 “he always found means to assemble some
 “jolly fellows about him; for temperance
 “and abstinence were intolerable to him.
 “The consequence was, that his infirmities
 “increased.

“ Before

" Before we arrived in England again,
 " I found that he did not treat me with
 " all that civility I had a right to expect
 " from him, as I was not dependent on
 " him. He was one of those, who ad-
 " mire new faces, and to whom a man is
 " disagreeable when he has known him
 " six months, and especially if at all inti-
 " mate. I had great reason to be chagrin-
 " ed at his behaviour: but considering it
 " as proceeding from his bodily infirmi-
 " ties, which might render his temper
 " peevish and changeable, I forbore taking
 " notice of his caprices, and we still con-
 " tinued on the same footing of intimacy.
 " The patience and good-nature which
 " suffered the absurdities of his conduct
 " unmoved, appeared very proper tools
 " for exercising his wit upon, or rather
 " his villainy. Soon after we came home,
 " he and I had separated, and going to
 " visit him one day I found his counte-
 " nance very much changed; a gloom and
 " dejection

“dejection darkened all his features. I
 “could not help inquiring the cause of
 “his sadness.”

‘Ah,’ said he, ‘I am undone: my fa-
 ‘ther is so much offended at my extrava-
 ‘gance, and the great sums of money
 ‘I have spent abroad, that he threatens
 ‘me with his utter displeasure, and to dis-
 ‘inherit me, at least leave every thing
 ‘from me that he can, which will be very
 ‘considerable. What to do I know not.’

‘I am truly sorry for it, Dalton,’ re-
 plied I: ‘my circumstances are such that
 ‘I am not able to assist you, nor will they
 ‘enable me these three months. I would
 ‘at any time willingly serve you, but more
 ‘especially in this affair, as I cannot help
 ‘looking on myself as partly concerned in
 ‘it, as your friendship to me augmented
 ‘your expence.’

‘Ah, that I should not mind,’ return-
 ed he: ‘my regard for you is such, that
 ‘nothing of that nature should be talked

“of

' of between us; nor should it now, but
 ' my father, who is extremely close and
 ' penurious, has heard by some means or
 ' another, that I took you abroad with
 ' me, and supported you at a very great ex-
 ' pence; this increases his indignation: |
 ' and as this matter is but too true, I can-
 ' not find any apology or excuse to make
 ' to him: in short, he has such an opi-
 ' nion of my prodigality, that he will
 ' take care after his death that I shall
 ' have very little to live upon, much less
 ' to spend: besides that, he will curtail
 ' his present allowance to me; and I, whom
 ' want of health and spirits render weak
 ' and infirm, require many things that I
 ' shall not be able to procure for myself.
 ' I shall starve—I shall perish for want of
 ' necessities.'

" This address stung me to the heart,
 " especially as I conceived myself accessa-
 " ry to the crime for which his father was
 " going to punish him. I knew also that

“ his delicacy would not, or could not put
 “ up with what would serve any body else.
 “ His situation excited my pity: I for-
 “ got every cause of resentment that I had
 “ formerly conceived against him, and
 “ looked upon him in my own melanco-
 “ ly state, miserable in the loss of a father
 “ who dearly loved me. I lamented to
 “ him the inability of my present circum-
 “ stances in the most pathetic manner, and
 “ asked him if he could point out any me-
 “ thod in which I could be serviceable to
 “ him, or the means of deprecating his fa-
 “ ther’s anger. He considered some time.

‘ There is a means,’ said he, ‘ if you
 ‘ would but oblige me in doing it, and
 ‘ have such a dependance upon me as
 ‘ to suppose I will not turn your kindness
 ‘ to a wrong use.’

‘ Name it! name it! and you shall see
 ‘ how readily I will do any thing to serve
 ‘ you.’

‘ If

‘ If you would give me your note for a
 ‘ sum of money, I could show it to my
 ‘ father, and tell him that you accompa-
 ‘ nied me, and having fallen short of mo-
 ‘ ney that I advanced you so much, and
 ‘ that he will consequently see I am not so
 ‘ bad as he thinks me ; and at the same
 ‘ time he will perceive I do not attempt to
 ‘ disguise the truth to him. When his
 ‘ passion is a little over, and matters
 ‘ restored to their old footing, I will re-
 ‘ turn your note, and you will have the
 ‘ pleasure of knowing that you have re-
 ‘ stored my affairs by your kindness.’

‘ Make no apology : I will do it in-
 ‘ stantly. What sum ?’

‘ Two hundred pounds.’

“ The sound of so large a sum startled
 “ me, and I paused. My good genius at
 “ that moment whispered some suggestions
 “ that foul play might be offered me.”

‘ If you doubt me,’ said Dalton, with
 an air of chagrin, ‘ do not do it. There

‘is not another man on earth I would be
‘so much obliged to.’

“This banished every suspicion: and I
“gave him my note, payable in three
“months, for two hundred pounds.

‘This will do!’ said he; receiving, and
reading it with much satisfaction. ‘Some
‘opportunity will soon open, when I shall
‘be able to return your friendship, and re-
‘pay your kindness; but you may depend
‘upon it this shall be given back into your
‘hands, with many thanks, in a short time.’

“I assured him I was perfectly easy on
“that score, as I had the most perfect and
“absolute dependance on his honour. We
“spent the day together: and his trouble
“was lost in the company of his friends,
“who did not fail to visit him. So great
“was my reliance upon his integrity and
“honesty, that I gave myself no man-
“ner of concern about the note, but, on
“the contrary, thought myself extremely
“happy in having an opportunity of serv-
“ing

“ ing so good a friend. As the treatment
 “ I had received from my wife had pre-
 “ vented me from settling in that part of
 “ the world where she was, I had given up
 “ all thoughts of profiting by my cousin’s
 “ offers of providing for me in the church,
 “ and determined upon some other: my
 “ inclination led me to that of physic, and
 “ I began to prepare myself for applying to
 “ it with the greatest diligence. I had laid
 “ down a plan for continuing in the Uni-
 “ versity, and prosecuting my designs in
 “ such a manner as would have been
 “ equally profitable and improving. While
 “ I was thus forming the pursuits of
 “ my future life, the year expired, and I
 “ went to London to receive the legacy
 “ that was left me, my now sole depen-
 “ dance, the purchase of my patrimony
 “ and my right. I made myself as con-
 “ tented as I could, and resolved, by fru-
 “ gality and industry, to improve my talent.
 “ The attorney whom I had before em-
 K 6 “ ployed

“ ployed also transacted this business for
“ me, and I received one thousand pounds.
“ However, it was not all my own, for
“ not having been careful enough to save
“ any thing out of my father’s allowance,
“ which was very liberal, when deprived
“ of it I was obliged to run in debt. The
“ sum that would clear me, I had laid by,
“ and was contriving how to turn the rest
“ to the best account, for I had no friend
“ whose advice I could depend upon. I
“ was turned loose upon the world’s great
“ common, let me thrive as I could.
“ What little experience I had gained was
“ to direct me ; and if that would not do,
“ there was nobody to apply to. However,
“ I was soon eased of the trouble of thinking
“ what to do with my money. The Italians
“ have a proverb, *Non é fiero nemico, chi
non sa far l’amico*. He is no dangerous
enemy who cannot pretend to be a friend.
“ and I was doomed to prove the truth of
“ it. It was a matter of surprise to me
“ when

“when the maid of the house where I
 “lodged, told me a gentleman wanted to
 “speak to me. Being a stranger in town,
 “I could not conceive who could have
 “business with me; but nevertheless, de-
 “sired the person, whoever he was, might
 “be sent up stairs. A well-looking man
 “came up to my chamber, and I demanded
 “if he had any business with me.

‘Yes, Sir, I have; Mr. Dalton sent me
 ‘to you.’

‘Oh pray sit down. I hope he is well;
 ‘I have not seen him this long time.’

‘Yes, Sir, he is very well: he desired
 ‘me to call on you for this note of two
 ‘hundred pounds, which is now due.’

‘Demand payment of my note! there
 ‘must be some extraordinary mistake in
 ‘this matter. It is an affair between us
 ‘that must not be made public, or I would
 ‘inform you of the whole transaction:
 ‘but when I can see him I shall be able to
 ‘clear it up. Where is he, pray?’

‘Oh

‘ Oh that does not signify where he is.
 ‘ He told me as how you would be making
 ‘ excuses ; but I must have the money.’

‘ I shall not pay you till I see him.’

‘ You must indeed, friend, or go to jail,
 ‘ I have got the note, and a writ. I am
 ‘ a sheriff’s officer, and must have the mo-
 ‘ ney, or your body. You had better not
 ‘ make any noise, for I have two men be-
 ‘ low ready at a call if you offer the slightest
 ‘ resistance ; therefore you had better not
 ‘ expose yourself, Sir, but accompany me
 ‘ quietly.’

“ His advice was too good to be re-
 “ jected. I went with him to his house,
 “ and then sent for my friend the attorney,
 “ to whom I related the case. Such frauds
 “ were not strange to him : but before he
 “ gave me any advice, he went to the per-
 “ son whom Dalton had employed, and
 “ talked the matter over with him. On
 “ his return, he told me that though I had
 “ been cheated, I had no sort of remedy ;

“ for

“ for they had formed such a story, and
“ had such proofs that he had advanced
“ money for my use abroad, that they
“ would certainly establish their demands
“ against me, and a contest would only
“ put more money out of my pocket, and
“ that without any probability of success.
“ However grievous it was to me to sub-
“ mit to such an imposition, I could not
“ help it, and I had only to blame my own
“ credulity for it; the money was there-
“ fore paid, and all the rest of my credi-
“ tors discharged, lest they should serve
“ me the same trick. By this time I was
“ master of very little more than five hun-
“ dred pounds. All the plans and schemes
“ that I had laid down for my future
“ conduct, were now rendered abortive;
“ I had no prospect before me that gave
“ me any pleasure, nor could I pursue
“ any road that would lead to my advan-
“ tage. The world was all before me, but
“ Providence was not my guide. From
“ that

“ that hour my evil genius took possession
“ of me, and the rest of my life, till within
“ the last twenty years, was a continued scene
“ of calamity, misfortune, and disappointment.
“ I was so long diffident what
“ course to pursue, or what kind of life to
“ betake me to, that I spent a good deal
“ of money in determining. A town life
“ is productive of great expences, from
“ the variety of pleasures; and though I
“ did not indulge myself in the excess of
“ them, yet my cloaths and my other dis-
“ bursements, required a greater sum than
“ mine was to support them. In fre-
“ quenting the coffee-houses, I got ac-
“ quainted with a man, who insinuated
“ himself into my good graces, by always
“ paying a particular attention to every
“ thing I said, and seeking my company.
“ This kind of flattery was extremely
“ agreeable to me, and I could not be so
“ ill natured as to refuse my society to a
“ man who was so industrious to acquire it.
“ We

“ We became extremely intimate; and upon
 “ the strength of our friendship he bor-
 “ rowed money from me, informing me
 “ at the same time that he was an author,
 “ and acquired a genteel subsistence by it;
 “ recommending it to me not to let my
 “ extraordinary talents lie idle; assuring
 “ me, that men of much inferior abilities
 “ lived very well by the produce of their
 “ brain. This was letting me into a se-
 “ cret that I was ignorant of before: and
 “ upon my telling him I should be glad to
 “ have an opportunity of doing something
 “ in that way, he promised to introduce
 “ me to his bookseller. We went together
 “ to him the next morning, and as I had a
 “ poetical talent, we talked about a trans-
 “ lation, which he wished to be concerned
 “ in; and having mentioned some terms,
 “ he told me he could make me none, till
 “ he saw a specimen of my abilities. I
 “ went home, and in a short time produced
 “ a sheet of the intended work. It was
 “ liked

“ liked by the bookseller, who told me he
 “ was to shew it to some of his friends for
 “ their approbation, and then he would
 “ agree with me. It happened to please
 “ them, and we made an agreement about
 “ it. I thought it was a very good one,
 “ and set about my task with great alacrity.
 “ Upon the strength of this work, and my
 “ future success in the literary world, my
 “ friend the author, to shew his friendship
 “ for me, borrowed more money of me;
 “ and I could not well refuse to lend him,
 “ who had opened to me the road that led
 “ to fame and profit. With all those
 “ golden dreams that the frantick inhabi-
 “ tants of the regions of the Muses possess,
 “ I endured confinement, nor did I spare
 “ labour to compleat my work. At the
 “ end of five months I had nearly finished
 “ it, and I burned with desire to see it
 “ in print, not doubting but my vanity
 “ would be satiated with praise due to my
 “ merit, and my labours rewarded by the
 “ generosity

“generosity of the public. I flattered
“myself that the reputation I should ac-
“quire by this publication would make the
“bookseller desirous of engaging with me,
“and that I should find a patron among
“some of our nobility who were fond of
“the Muses. I had writ very hard all
“day, and being desirous of refreshing
“myself a little after my fatigue, went
“to our usual place of rendezvous, in
“hopes of meeting my friend the author,
“and spending an hour with him. I had
“need of relaxation, and indulged my-
“self in a chearful glass. Our mutual la-
“bours, and our expected rewards for
“them, were the chief subjects of our con-
“versation. The idea of our respective
“merits filled our heads, and we forgot
“how the time passed. As the coffee-
“house was a great distance from my
“lodging, the watchman was crying One
“as I approached that quarter of the
“town; but seeing a great number of
“people

“ people out at that late hour, I asked him
 “ the cause of it. He replied they had
 “ been assisting in extinguishing a fire in
 “ such a street, naming that in which I
 “ lived. My heart failed me instantly, and
 “ I presaged my misfortune. Without
 “ staying to ask any particulars, I ran as
 “ fast as my legs could carry me home-
 “ wards, and there I perceived my former
 “ dwelling reduced to ashes, and with it
 “ my books, cloaths, linen, my money, my
 “ manuscript; nay, all my hopes were
 “ consumed with it. It is not easy to de-
 “ scribe or conceive the variety of painful
 “ sensations I underwent at that moment.
 “ My torture was exquisite: nevertheless,
 “ it was but a prelude to my future suffer-
 “ ings. I stood in a torpid state of insen-
 “ sibility: stupid at my misfortunes, look-
 “ ing at the scene of desolation before me
 “ with silent horror. The fire was extin-
 “ guished, and the people began to disperse:
 “ but I stood immoveably rooted on the
 “ spot

“ spot where the greater part of my for-
 “ tune lay buried. How long I should
 “ have remained there I know not, had
 “ not the servant of one of the neighbour-
 “ ing houses come to me, and told me that
 “ her mistress wanted to speak with me.
 “ She was obliged to repeat her message
 “ several times before I could understand
 “ her; at last I followed her as she desired.
 “ Mrs. Godfrey, who sent for me, was an
 “ officer’s widow, and contrived to make
 “ both ends meet, by letting out lodgings.
 “ As the neighbourhood had been roused
 “ by the fire, and not yet returned to rest,
 “ she, among the others, saw me, and
 “ knowing that I had been a lodger in the
 “ house that was burnt, sent for me and
 “ offered me a room in her’s. She in-
 “ formed me the fire was so extremely
 “ fierce and rapid that nothing could be
 “ saved. Alas! this was a truth I was al-
 “ ready well assured of, and needed not a
 “ confirmation of such melancholy tidings.

“ As

“ As I was not in a fit condition to return
“ her civilities, or engage in conversation
“ with her, I got permission to retire to
“ bed; for it is not to be presumed I could
“ sleep. Here my active imagination re-
“ capitulated the principal transactions of
“ my life, and I found that I had been
“ unfortunate; but the foundation of my
“ future misery only began to be laid. It
“ was a small consolation to me, when I
“ came to the right use of my senses, to
“ find that I had a pocket-book about me,
“ in which the remainder, and now the sum-
“ total of all my fortune was deposited.
“ That amounted to about one hundred
“ and eighty pounds, and on that was
“ now my whole dependance. I was well
“ convinced that would not support me
“ long. My memory was very retentive,
“ and I could almost repeat the work I had
“ brought so near a conclusion. My de-
“ termination was to sit down to it again,
“ and prepare it according to my agree-
“ ment.

" ment. My disturbed senses at last found
 " relief in sleep ; and when I rose in the
 " morning, Mrs. Godfrey invited me to
 " breakfast. She and her daughter, a
 " pretty genteel young woman, plain in
 " her dress, neat in her attire, and with
 " looks that spoke her modesty and inno-
 " cence, condoled with me on my loss. I
 " returned them my thanks for the great
 " civilities they had shewn me, and assured
 " them that I should not forget the obliga-
 " tions I was under to them. I resumed my
 " former employment, and began to make
 " a great progress in it. My hopes also
 " were beginning to revive. Mrs. God-
 " frey had treated me with a very agree-
 " able particularity, and the terms she re-
 " ceived me upon were remarkably easy.
 " She professed a great esteem for me :
 " my manner of life pleased her. She in-
 " formed me of her situation. She had
 " been an officer's wife, who died abroad,
 " and left her in great distress. She and
 " her

“ her daughter, then an infant, had made
 “ a shift to subsist a while upon his pen-
 “ sion; but a relation dying some time
 “ after, left her the house she then lived
 “ in, and the furniture, upon which she
 “ contrived to get a tolerable subsistence;
 “ and that her only view was now to see
 “ her daughter well settled. As I boarded
 “ with her, it fell out frequently that I was
 “ left alone with Miss Godfrey. Nothing
 “ could be more reserved or prudent than
 “ her conduct to me had been, and her be-
 “ haviour in my presence. Much as I
 “ disliked the sex, and great as the cause
 “ of my aversion was, I could not avoid
 “ an intimacy with this girl. But nothing
 “ tender on my part had passed, and I only
 “ looked upon her in the light of a com-
 “ panion, that necessity at some times ren-
 “ dered preferable to solitude. The mo-
 “ ther, on every occasion, treated me with
 “ the greatest tenderness, and shewed me
 “ more civility than I could expect from a
 “ person

“ person who knew so little of me. The
“ cause of this soon appeared.

“ I had finished my translation with a
“ great deal of trouble, and sent a letter to
“ the bookseller, who had agreed with me
“ for it, acquainting him it was ready, and
“ desiring to know when he would receive
“ it, and read it with me. His reply was,
“ that he had no occasion for any such
“ thing, and would have nothing to say to
“ it. Upon the receipt of his answer I
“ went immediately to him, and remon-
“ strated with him on the unfairness of his
“ proceedings; and told him that the writ-
“ ten agreement he made with me would
“ prove his bargain. But as I was obliged
“ to confess that it was burned, he took
“ that opportunity of freeing himself from
“ his engagements with me. I returned
“ home in a state of mortification and cha-
“ grin, that was intolerable. Mrs. God-
“ frey took notice of my dejection, and
“ did all in her power to relieve it. Pene-

“trated by her kindness, I made her ac-
 “quainted with the cause of my uneasiness.
 “I found myself relieved by the discovery
 “of woes that my heart was almost burst-
 “ing with, and she soon had cunning
 “enough to get out of me my real situa-
 “tion. Her behaviour to me was such as
 “I did not dream of.

‘I am sorry for your misfortunes, and
 ‘wish it was in my power to relieve them,
 ‘but it is not; nevertheless, as far as I
 ‘can, shall not be wanting. Live with
 ‘me as one of our family. you will be
 ‘able at some time or other to repay me;
 ‘if you are not it will not ruin me. I
 ‘have been in distress myself, and should
 ‘feel for the misfortunes of others.’

“I knew not how to accept, nor could
 “I refuse these kind offers. The daughter
 “appeared affected with my situation; she
 “pitied me, and lamented frequently to
 “me the injustice and partiality of the
 “world, that could let merit like mine
 “remain

“ remain unrewarded. My vanity was
 “ pleased even with these compliments
 “ payed me, though I had no great opi-
 “ nion of her understanding; but gratitude
 “ which has ever been prevalent over every
 “ other passion in my soul, made me look
 “ upon Miss Godfrey with the eyes of re-
 “ gard. I began to think her humanity
 “ and good-nature bespoke the tenderness
 “ of her heart, and that she was worthy of
 “ every happiness. The more these confi-
 “ derations affected me, the more I gave
 “ way to and indulged them. I reasoned
 “ myself into a passion for her: and I found
 “ I loved her before I had ever thought of
 “ such a thing. As there was no cause to
 “ apprehend the alteration in my bosom,
 “ I found as frequent opportunities of en-
 “ tertaining her alone as before, and in a
 “ very little time made her acquainted with
 “ the passion I had conceived for her. Her
 “ behaviour rather gave me hopes of hav-
 “ ing it honourably rewarded, than totally
 L 2 “ repulsed.

“repulsed. I met a proper encourage-
“ment from her, and began to hope I
“might find in her what had been denied
“me in Miss Colson. Some time after
“this declaration, and my consequent ad-
“dresses to her, Mrs. Godfrey spoke to
“me in private, and informed me that her
“daughter had acquainted her with what
“had passed between her and me. That
“though she could not disapprove me for
“her son-in-law, upon any objection to my
“personal merits, yet, as my circumstances
“were but indifferent, and I must be sen-
“sible she could afford no fortune to her
“daughter, it would be very imprudent
“for us to think of going together. The
“truth of this harangue struck me forcibly:
“and I told her that I must very un-
“willingly submit to my fate, the necessity
“of my situation forbidding me to indulge
“any hopes that could contribute to my
“happiness.

! It

‘It prevents your mutual happiness indeed,’ replied she: ‘for my daughter has conceived so good an opinion of you, that I fear she will not recover herself if debarred from being your wife. All I can say is this: I love you both, and as far as I can contribute to your mutual satisfaction, I will. You shall both live with me as long as I live, and at my death you shall have this house. This is all I have to give, and that you shall enjoy.’

“I wanted power to thank this good woman for her affectionate offers.

‘Well,’ added she, ‘I will send my girl to you, that she may have the pleasure of receiving an answer, so agreeable to her wishes, from you.’

“I informed her of her mother’s goodness, and enjoyed the confession of her sentiments so favourable to me. We agreed upon the day to seal our mutual happiness, and like all other lovers plan-

"ed out many future scenes of ideal hap-
 "piness. On the appointed day she be-
 "came my bride: our wedding was kept
 "in a private and agreeable manner, on-
 "ly a few friends being invited by Mrs.
 "Godfrey. For some time I enjoyed all
 "that peace of mind which attends a man
 "in possession of his wishes: but not having
 "any other means of support than what arose
 "from my pen, I again attempted some
 "things in the literary way, which I had
 "the satisfaction to find met applause, and
 "that my industry might procure me a
 "comfortable subsistence, till something or
 "other fell out that would remove me
 "from the great fatigue and intense appli-
 "cation that these studies require. I had
 "communicated to my wife my original
 "intention of going into orders, inform-
 "ing her at the same time that I had a
 "friend who would provide for me, and
 "indeed I had very serious thoughts of
 "applying to my cousin, of whose regard

" I was

" I was thoroughly convinced. Being
 " married, and having the apprehensions
 " of a family coming on without my being
 " able to procure even the necessaries of life
 " for them, my pride began to abate, and
 " I found I could now face the woman
 " who had formerly basely forsaken me ;
 " besides, it was contrary to my spirit and
 " my inclinations to remain a dependent
 " on my mother-in-law. My thoughts
 " had been thus employed for some time,
 " and I had come to a resolution to write
 " to my cousin Harper, and inform him
 " of every thing that had passed, remind
 " him of his former promise, and intreat
 " his performance of it, when an accident
 " made me lay aside my intention. My
 " wife had quarreled with an old servant,
 " who had been in the house ever since I
 " had been acquainted with it. Words
 " run very high between them, the con-
 " sequence was, that the maid was to be
 " discharged as soon as she could hire ano-

“ther : for that purpose she and her mother went out together. In the meantime the maid came up into the room where I was writing.”

‘ Well, Betty, what have you to say to me?’

‘ I have to say,’ replied she, ‘ that you are an honest and a good-tempered gentleman, and that you have been imposed upon, and cheated by your wife and her mother.’

‘ Aye ! How so.’

‘ Why you were persuaded to marry your wife from her being so demure and modest in her appearance, and you thought nothing could be more innocent ; but she was no more a maid than my mother. There are few of the gentleman, who have lodged here, but have had her, and she is common as—’

‘ I fear,’ said I, ‘ your revenge instigates you to make this confession with a design of causing us to quarrel.’

‘ You

‘ You are mistaken,’ replied she, interrupting me : ‘ I would not be so wicked as to make you unhappy without a cause ; but it is a shame and a sin to see you imposed upon by such a couple of. — But I will give you a proof of what I say : Captain Leslie has been her favourite, and I believe is so privately still. Dr. William Parker is her *friend* now, as she terms him. All the neighbourhood saw and talked of them, and no body would visit her till you married her. The solitary life you lead, not going into any company in this place, prevented your hearing these things of her before. You retire every evening to your studies,’ continued she, ‘ and then your wife’s gallant makes his appearance. I will shew you a place, if you will come along with me, that will give you an opportunity of convincing yourself hereafter, whether I have told you truth or not.’

“ I was rendered motionless by this account. However, she roused me by adding, that there was no time for delay, as her mistress would be back directly, and then she must quit the house, which she declared she should do very unwillingly till she had made me perfectly acquainted with my wife’s iniquity. She also pointed out to me many other particulars which I had seen, but which I never thought worthy of notice till I was informed of the motives of them. Our conversation was interrupted by my wife and her mother knocking at the door: the maid went to let them in, and I retired to my study. Here I had leisure enough to ruminate on my own situation. I found that if I was contented to eat the bread of dishonour, and be a quiet easy wittol, here was provision for me. It was then that all her mother’s pretended kindness came into my remembrance; and I wondered and blushed

“ ed

"ed at myself for being such a blockhead
 "in not seeing through her designs. The
 "servant had informed me that long before
 "I had acquainted them with my circum-
 "cumstances, they knew them very well:
 "for being possessed of double keys to
 "every lock in the house they soon got at
 "the secrets of their lodgers; mine were
 "not hidden from them. My full deter-
 "mination was to take the earliest opportu-
 "nity of finding out her perfidy, and repay-
 "ing it in a proper manner. It is not to be
 "supposed that I could enjoy peace after
 "so fatal a discovery, or look with plea-
 "sure on a woman who had saddled me
 "with shame and reproach. It was as
 "much as ever I could do to conceal my
 "resentment sufficiently to render me un-
 "suspected, and prevent her putting it
 "out of my power to make a discovery
 "so necessary to my welfare. I pursued
 "the method the maid-servant had pointed
 "out to me, and in a few nights had the

“ mortification to find every thing she
“ had told me verified. I was in a place
“ that I could not get to the Lady and
“ her lover, or I should have made them both
“ suffer; however, I was so imprudent as
“ to call out to them, and let them know
“ what witness they had of their pleasures.
“ They both made off as fast as they
“ could from the scene of their guilt, and
“ I pursued them down stairs. The gal-
“ lant effected his escape: and instead of
“ finding my wife in tears lamenting her
“ crime, and intreating pardon, both mo-
“ ther and daughter fell on me, and gave
“ me a proof of their morals by the viru-
“ lence of their language. Outrageous as
“ I was, all my accusations against the
“ offender were drowned in the torrent of
“ their abuse. They abraided me with
“ my poverty, and their having saved me
“ from starving; they reproached me for
“ my ingratitude; and any indifferent per-
“ son who had been a witness of this alter-
“ cation

" cation must necessarily have concluded
 " me to be the greatest villain on earth, and
 " them to be a couple of angels. As I
 " was not able to withstand or oppose this
 " storm, I was glad to fly from its violence.
 " I snatched up my hat, and out I went ;
 " willing to endure any hardships rather
 " than suffer, from the authors of my
 " shame and additional misfortunes, the
 " weight of their insolence and rage. My
 " anger and resolution supported my spi-
 " rit at first, but I soon came to reflect
 " very seriously on my own misery. I had
 " no friend, very little money, and was
 " intirely unknown. I blamed my rash-
 " ness, when it was too late, in adventuring
 " to make the discovery of my wife's in-
 " fidelity by myself: when, if I had but
 " taken proper witnesses of her crime, I
 " should have been able to have turned
 " the tables on her ; but had I even done
 " that, I should not have been able to have
 " supported an expensive law suit. I hid
 " myself

“ myself in a remote part of the town, a-
 “ bandoned to all the horrors of poverty,
 “ shame, and woe. In ten days the lit-
 “ tle stock of money I had was all exhaust-
 “ ed, and destruction stared me in the
 “ face. I had, in the bitterness of ago-
 “ nizing reflections, worked myself up to
 “ a pitch of madness, and was capable of
 “ any action, however desperate. In this
 “ wretched state my active imagination, in
 “ ruminating on my past life of troubles,
 “ had recourse to my mother as the first
 “ cause of them: she who unnaturally
 “ and unjustly abandoned her offspring,
 “ who forced him into those paths that
 “ led to ruin, was first to be blamed. I
 “ resolved to go and upbraid her my-
 “ self.

“ I had not tasted a morsel for two days,
 “ neither had I received any refreshment
 “ of linen, or had even been shaved since
 “ I left my wife’s hated presence. I re-
 “ paired early in the morning to that part
 “ of

“ of the town where my mother lived, to
 “ see if I could catch her going out. I
 “ was disappointed in that: but saw my
 “ brother, richly dressed, step into his
 “ chariot and drive off, and soon after
 “ return with one of his gay compa-
 “ nions. How dismal were my reflections
 “ at this great disparity between us! How
 “ bitter and galling was the comparison to
 “ my afflicted soul. I cursed myself, and
 “ execrated my being. In the midst of
 “ a distracted mind, the memory of my
 “ poor father brought tears into my eyes:
 “ but instead of mollifying, they served to
 “ rouse my passions to a more dreadful
 “ height, and urge me to a more despa-
 “ rate undertaking.”

“ What is the reason,” did I exclaim in
 the frenzy of my despair, “ that I am
 “ exposed to the want of even food, sub-
 “ jected to all the misfortunes that offend-
 “ ed heaven can inflict, while that brother
 “ of mine, who sprung from the same pa-
 “ rents,

"rents, is pampered with delicacies, and
 "enjoys all the blessings, all the pleasures,
 "all the superfluities of life? I am parch-
 "ed with thirst, famine clings me. I have
 "no home to fly to, no friend to receive
 "me, and why I have deserved this ex-
 "traordinary punishment I know not."

"During these melancholy soliloquies,
 "which proceeded from my heart, almost
 "bursting with woe and inconceivable dis-
 "tress, I had observed a great many car-
 "riages stop at my mother's door, and the
 "company go in. I was more fully deter-
 "mined than ever to effect the purpose I had
 "projected, and expose her in the midst of
 "her acquaintance and friends. I was
 "puzzled to get admittance for some time;
 "at length one of the servants going out
 "left the door open, and I rushed in. The
 "voice of feasting and the clatter of the
 "knives in an adjacent parlour, directed
 "my steps to the place where they were
 "assembled. I hastened to the door of
 "the

“ the room fearful of being prevented
 “ from executing my purpose, and flung
 “ it open with great violence : a servant
 “ going by at the same time with a glass,
 “ it was struck out of his hand. The
 “ noise attracted the eyes of the whole
 “ company. The servant seized me with
 “ an intent to turn me out : I felled him
 “ to the ground.”

‘ Learn villain,’ said I, ‘ to respect the
 ‘ eldest son of your mistress.’

“ The ladies screamed, the gentlemen
 “ started from their seats.”

“ Who is that fellow ?” was the univer-
 sal cry.

‘ Turn him out,’ said my mother.

‘ Hear me first.’

‘ Turn him out, I say.’

‘ Not till I am heard,’ said I, snatching
 up a carving-knife from the table : ‘ I will
 ‘ be heard, and the first man who ap-
 ‘ proaches me till then ; meets his death.’

“ I re-]

“ I retreated to the wall, against which
“ I placed my back : the company remain-
“ ed silent, expecting me to speak.”

“ Ladies dismiss your fears : I come not
“ to hurt you, and am sorry that I have
“ disturbed your festivity ; but force alone
“ could bring me to the sight of that
“ woman who entertains you, and who
“ unfortunately for me is my mother. I
“ am her eldest son. Her intrigues have
“ deprived me of my patrimony, and reduc-
“ ed me to the condition in which you see
“ me. It is my substance which entertains
“ you : my right affords you those dainties,
“ whilst I am in want of even the plainest
“ food. This is what I desire to tell you,
“ Madam,” continued I, addressing myself
to my mother ; “ restore me my father’s
“ estate which you have so unjustly deprived
“ me of : afford me the means of life, and
“ I will no more disturb you. I ask but
“ for my own : and I will return that inade-
“ quate sum, which you prevailed on him
“ in

‘in his dying hours to bequeath to me.
 ‘This is all I want : and to tell you this,
 ‘you force me to assume the character of
 ‘violence, and make me appear in this
 ‘light, so foreign to my nature and my
 ‘birth.’

“This reflection was too bitter for me
 “to bear with moderation. My heart
 “was overcome with conflicting passions,
 “and tears burst from my eyes.”

‘I have no more to say. The ill usage
 ‘I have met with has almost broke my
 ‘heart, and you will soon have the plea-
 ‘sure of sending me to the grave, as you
 ‘have brought me into the world.’

“I replaced the knife upon the table,
 “and stood expecting an answer.”

‘Sieze him directly,’ said my mother.

“And two servants instantly secured
 “me. I made no opposition.”

‘And now, Madam, what do you mean
 ‘to do with me?’

‘If

‘ If there is a means of punishing you,
‘ it shall be done.’

‘ That there is, Madam,’ said a justice
of the peace, who had not abstained from
eating the whole time, ‘ and I will do it
‘ for you. Step to my house, young man,
‘ and desire my clerk to come here, and
‘ bring a constable with him. I will take
‘ care he plays no more pranks of this
‘ kind.’

“ While a servant ran for the officer of
“ justice, I remained overwhelmed with
“ grief and confusion, in a state of silent
“ dejection: my arms were folded on my
“ breast, and I hung down my head una-
“ ble to look up. In this interval the
“ company passed their judgment on me:
“ the women, all declared I deserved to be
“ hanged; that I was a sad fellow, and
“ they hoped I should be well whipped at
“ least. The lady-like men joined them
“ in opinion, and I found myself almost
“ universally condemned. A young gen-
“ tleman,

“ gentleman, who had hitherto been silent,
 “ started up from the table, and taking
 “ his hat went towards the door.”

“ Lord, Sir, where are you going?” said
 my mother.

“ To quit your table, Madam,” returned
 the youth, “ when I see I eat bread ob-
 ‘ tained by iniquity; and to forsake the so-
 ‘ ciety of parasites, who can applaud a
 ‘ conduct so barbarous as yours is. If this
 ‘ gentleman is your son, as I am sure he is,
 ‘ for you do not even attempt to deny it,
 ‘ you should do him justice. I must own,
 ‘ that his appearance and situation have
 ‘ affected me, tho’ his mother does not feel
 ‘ for him. You should listen to the voice of
 ‘ truth and nature, and not to the insinua-
 ‘ tions of those who are your associates.
 ‘ Sir,” and he addressed me, “ I am sorry
 ‘ for your situation, and that you are so
 ‘ unfortunate. I feel for your distress,
 ‘ though its out of my power to assist you
 ‘ as effectually as I could wish: but you
 ‘ have got into very bad hands. Take
 ‘ these

“these five guineas from me, they will
“help you a little in your necessities. I
“insist on your taking them, I have heard
“before now of the unnatural behaviour
“of your mother, and am sorry I am
“obliged to be a witness, as well as to see
“the depravity of human nature, that in
“all this company there is not one even
“among the women, who have honesty or
“humanity enough to avow a feeling for
“your misfortunes. I will avoid such so-
“ciety for the future.”

“He left the room abruptly, nor could
“I have an opportunity of thanking him.
“It would have been difficult to have
“done it, for my utterance was stopped,
“and I could not have found words ex-
“pressive of my sensations at that mo-
“ment. The abuse was now turned on
“my friend: the women tore him to
“pieces with their tongues; and the ju-
“stice expressed his sorrow that he had
“not an opportunity of committing him
“to

“to Bridewell, for he swore he deserved
 “it. The constable and clerk at length
 “arrived, and a mittimus was made out
 “for me for an assault, and entering the
 “house with an intent to steal. I had
 “no bail to give, and I was conducted to
 “prison. I had here an opportunity to
 “see misery in all its stages: but I no
 “longer felt either for my own woes, nor
 “those of any other. My heart became
 “callous, my reflections no longer increas-
 “ed my afflictions; I was no longer pos-
 “sessed of a delicate sense of woe; on the
 “contrary, my griefs subsided into a total
 “insensibility, and an apathy both with
 “regard to myself and others. In about
 “a week’s time an attorney came to me
 “from my mother to inform me of her
 “goodness in forbearing to prosecute me,
 “and to tell me I was at liberty again.
 “This gave me no pleasure: I had rather
 “been in gaol than exposed to the insults
 “of the world. I returned her no thanks:
 “on

“ on the contrary told her messenger, that
“ the fear of scandal only prevented her
“ from indulging her revenge. He was
“ scarcely gone, and I preparing to leave
“ my prison, when I was delivered into the
“ custody of a bailiff, who had a writ a-
“ gainst me at the suit of my wife’s mo-
“ ther for a large sum of money due to
“ her for lodging, and dieting me and my
“ wife, and other things; and another at
“ the suit of a man from whom my wife
“ had taken two hundred pounds worth of
“ goods. As my mother’s releasing me had
“ given me no sort of pleasure, so this altera-
“ tion gave me no sort of pain. It was only
“ changing one prison for another, and I
“ went with a great deal of composure.
“ Here I remained for near three years,
“ and by divers methods, though princi-
“ pally by my pen I preserved my wretch-
“ ed being. As the attempt I had made
“ at my mother’s was known all about
“ the town, people passed different cen-
“ sures

“ fures on her conduct, and but very few
 “ were favourable to her : this gave her
 “ much pain, who was naturally of a
 “ proud and imperious disposition, and so
 “ much it affected her, that she fell ill
 “ and never rose from her bed. It is not
 “ to be supposed that I could grieve much
 “ after her ; but I was not a bit the bet-
 “ ter for her death, for she left every
 “ thing in her power to her younger son,
 “ who had ever been her favourite. An
 “ act of insolvency freed me from gaol,
 “ and I was once more restored to my li-
 “ berty, with the additional satisfaction
 “ to find that my wife had paid the debt
 “ of nature some time before. I now se-
 “ cluded myself from the world, and for
 “ ten years in the midst of this populous
 “ city lived the life of an hermit ; and
 “ few were the scenes of misfortune and
 “ want that I did not experience. In this
 “ retirement, separated from mankind, it
 “ was impossible to receive any benefit

“ from them, and nothing but the remem-
“ brance of the evils I had formerly suf-
“ fered in my communication with socie-
“ ty remained: I therefore beheld all
“ their actions through the wrong end of
“ the perspective. I magnified the evil,
“ and lessened the good. Time and ha-
“ bits confirmed opinions which I am not
“ now intirely able to get rid of. In this
“ melancholy situation hope did not for-
“ sake me. I concluded, that there was a
“ time allowed for my sufferings to continue,
“ and when that expired, they would cease.
“ I had a strong reliance on the goodness
“ of the all-powerful Being, whose boun-
“ ties are extended to the lowest parts of
“ the creation; and I could not see any rea-
“ son why I should be miserable. This
“ reflection cheered my spirits, when la-
“ bouring under every affliction that hu-
“ man nature could support, and pre-
“ vented me from executing any rash or
“ irremediable attempts that despair might
“ suggest.

“ suggest. It pleased heaven to fulfil my
 “ hopes, and remove me from the wretched
 “ state I had so long been in. Going
 “ along the Strand one day, a gentleman
 “ met me; we mutually attracted each
 “ other’s appearance; we both stopped;
 “ both knew; yet both were for a little
 “ time at a loss to recollect each other.

‘ Don’t you remember me then!’ said he.

“ His voice struck me: it was my cousin
 “ Harper, my much-valued, dearly-be-
 “ loved friend.

‘ Where have you hid yourself from
 ‘ me? or why have you shunned me?
 ‘ Was this the part of a friend?’

‘ You will not accuse me,’ returned I,
 ‘ when you are acquainted with the truth.
 ‘ Many are the causes which prevented me;
 ‘ but here I cannot communicate them to
 ‘ you.’

‘ My joy at seeing you once more, ba-
 ‘ nished the recollection of the impropri-
 ‘ ety of the place we are in for this

‘ conversation ; but come with me, and I
‘ will shew you one who will be as glad to
‘ see you as I am, and who has frequently
‘ joined me in lamenting your absence from
‘ your best friends.’

“ I followed him to one end of the gen-
“ teelest parts of the town, and we enter-
“ ed a very large house, fitted up in an
“ elegant taste, and filled with the richest
“ furniture.”

‘ This is mine,’ said he ; ‘ and by tell-
‘ ing you so, I make you as welcome to it
‘ as I am myself : but excuse me a little,
‘ and I will return to you directly.’

“ He left me overwhelmed with joy,
“ gratitude, friendship, and every tender
“ sensation that could affect the human
“ heart. In a short time he entered the
“ room followed by his Adeline. I was
“ struck speechless at her appearance.
“ The youthful bloom, that rendered her
“ so lovely an object when I first saw her,
“ was now matured into perfection ; and
“ what

" what her face wanted in the lustre of
 " beauty, was made up in the softness and
 " delicacy of her countenance. She re-
 " proached me gently for absenting my-
 " self from her and her husband; assur-
 " ed me of her regard, and the affection
 " they both had for me. So little used to
 " receive any thing but disappointments
 " and mortifications, repulses and scorn,
 " from the rest of the world, I was una-
 " ble to bear the load of kindness they
 " were heaping on me with such profusion.
 " A thousand contending passions stopped
 " my utterance: I stood motionless, and
 " the big tear trembling in my eye. Mr.
 " Harper saw my distress."

' It is true, my friend, what this worthy
 ' partner of my heart has told you. We
 ' have tried every method in our power to
 ' find you out, and feared you were dead.]
 ' Now we have obtained you again, if
 ' you have no other connexions more bind-
 ' ing than ours, you must not part from

'us any more. You shall live with us, and
'be one of ourselves.'

"This overcame me: I turned from
"them, and wept aloud, giving vent to
"my tears, to the delicate distress their kind-
"ness occasioned. Equally surpris'd and
"concerned at my behaviour, they knew
"not to what cause to attribute it. They
"waited till the first transports were pass-
"ed, and renewed their professions of re-
"gard to me. The gentle Adeline drop-
"ed the tear of sympathy; affected at
"the appearance, without knowing the
"reality of my distress. Again they press-
"ed me to make known to them the cause
"why I absented myself from them: to
"clear myself from the imputation of in-
"gratitude, I determined to inform them
"of every thing that had happened to
"me. I concealed no circumstance from
"them, and my narrative was often inter-
"rupted by the compassionate Adeline,
"who

“ who felt for my disasters; nor was Mr. Harper unaffected.”

‘ Ah,’ said he, when I had finished, ‘ have you not been guilty of all the misfortunes that have fallen on you, by so wilfully concealing yourself from your friends? But you shall not suffer any more: I will take care of that.’

“ In my turn I inquired after the welfare of their family. I learned that Adeline’s mother was dead, and we paid a tribute of tears to her memory; but she had the satisfaction of seeing, before she died, her daughter in possession of all her uncle Lord G——’s estate, which he left her, as he declared by his will, as a small recompence for the troubles he had occasioned her.”

‘ This,’ said my friend, ‘ and my father’s death, gave me possession of more wealth than I coveted, or knew what to do with: however, by the advice of Adeline I have done every thing, and for

‘ the best. I have the great pleasure of seeing all my father’s family settled for their advantage, and to their satisfaction. The few little ones that it has pleased heaven to bless me with, now engross my care and attention.’

“ This worthy pair renewed their cares of me; they denied themselves to every other visiter, and reserved themselves for me. We spent the day together in the talking over past occurrences: and the beautiful retirement where I first saw Adeline was not forgotten.

‘ I enjoy there,’ said she, ‘ the happiest moments of my life: we shake off the attendants that we are obliged to keep in other places, and seclude ourselves from the cares and fatigues that wealth brings along with it in the shades of Santon Grove. If any thing can damp the pleasure that I receive there, it is the remembrance of my dear mother, which
‘ every

'every object in that place serves to revive.
 ' But when I think of her it is only with
 ' regret at having lost so worthy a parent,
 ' so good, so tender a friend: for I have
 ' long ceased to lament her death as a mis-
 ' fortune, convinced that she is much hap-
 ' pier than she could be here. Every thing
 ' else conspires to give me pleasure; and
 ' Mr. Harper delights in the place also,
 ' out of compliment to me.'

" The reply of her happy husband was
 " dictated by unaffected tenderness. I saw,
 " with joy, their mutual felicity, and con-
 " gratulated them on it; and truly, never
 " did I behold such a perfect and uninter-
 " rupted scene of nuptial harmony and af-
 " fection. They would not suffer me to
 " depart that night: and in the morning
 " Mr. Harper told me, he saw no cause
 " why I should separate myself from them
 " any more; and added, that Adeline, as
 " well as he, insisted on my living with
 " them. I declined his offer, so far as

“ dwelling in the same house; but embraced
“ the other part of it with great pleasure,
“ assuring him, that I would never give
“ him cause to complain of my absence
“ again. He procured me a very hand-
“ some lodging near his own house, and
“ every day I dined and spent the evening
“ with them, when at home: and indeed
“ his house became so to me in reality in a
“ very short time. I knew perfectly well
“ that my temper, sower’d and rendered
“ morose from the disasters I had met with
“ in the world, might not be agreeable to
“ every body: and at the same time I could
“ keep myself from those whom I did not
“ like at his house, while I had apartments
“ of my own. My friend approved and
“ indulged my notions of independance;
“ for in a fortnight’s time he called on me,
“ and, after making inquiry how I liked
“ my lodgings, and whether I was settled to
“ my mind, he told me, that as he wished
“ to make the latter part of my life as
“ easy

“easy and agreeable to me as the former
“had been troublesome and unfortunate,
“informed me he had prepared a deed,
“granting me an annuity of two hundred
“pounds for the remainder of my life,
“putting it at the same time into my hands.
“He prevented my thanking him, by add-
“ing, that his ability was such, that it was
“no merit in him to provide for the com-
“fortable establishment of so near a rela-
“tion as I was, exclusive of the regard he
“entertained for me; that the only way to
“preserve our friendship was to be inde-
“pendent of each other; that he was de-
“termined to secure mine, by putting it
“out of his own power to revoke the gift
“he had then made me. He would not
“suffer me to thank him, though my heart
“teemed with gratitude, and longed to
“pour forth the acknowledgements due to
“such disinterested generosity. In a short
“time I had the pleasure of seeing his two
“sons: the eldest was about nine, the other
“eight

“ eight years old ; fine promising boys,
“ the pledges of the chaste loves of Ade-
“ line, and her enraptured husband ; the
“ worthy inheritors of the virtues of their
“ parents ; their future representatives,
“ their present hope and delight. They
“ had been blessed with other children,
“ who lived but a short time ; these only
“ now remained. They were then newly
“ placed at a public school, attended by a
“ young clergyman, who assisted in super-
“ intending their education. After some
“ time spent in London, they returned
“ again to their studies. For about twelve
“ months I spent a life of happiness that
“ had been unknown to me. I had forgot
“ my troubles, and never wished to think
“ of them again ; rashly imagining that I
“ could meet no misfortunes now. I par-
“ took of and added to the pleasures that
“ the whole Harper family enjoyed, and
“ which was increased by Mrs. Harper’s
“ being again pregnant. She had borne
“ her

" her burden with good health, and ap-
 " proached the time when she expected to
 " be cleared of it. While we were con-
 " gratulating ourselves on the enjoyment
 " of each other, planning future scenes of
 " pleasures, laying up in our imaginations
 " the materials of happiness to come,
 " the hand of heaven visited us, and
 " checked our hopes, suffered to grow too
 " luxuriant. The chastisement of the Al-
 " mighty blasted our projects, as the frost
 " destroys the blossoms of the spring.
 " How little are riches to be depended
 " upon in the hour of woe ! and small is
 " the consolation they afford in the day of
 " wrath. One morning my friend rushed
 " into the room, with a look highly ex-
 " pressive of his concern. I had but just
 " risen, and was alarmed and surprised at
 " this extraordinary visit

' Oh, Asgill !' said he, ' all my happiness
 ' is at an end.'

' What

‘What is the matter! Explain yourself.’

‘My boys, my two dear boys!—but dress yourself, and come along with me.’

“I obeyed him in an instant: and his carriage, which waited for us, took us with the greatest speed to Eaton. By the way he informed me that he had received intelligence from their tutor of the childrens having the small-pox, which proved to be of the confluent and most dangerous kind. That it was with the greatest difficulty he had prevented his wife from going to see them, which, in her condition, might be fatal: and he had been obliged to represent their situation less alarming than it really was, to quiet her maternal apprehensions, prevailing on her to suffer him to visit them alone, and inform her truly of their condition. His lamentations pierced me to the heart, and I could not offer him any consolation. On our arrival, the physicians,

“ cians, who accompanied us in another
 “ carriage, could not help testifying their
 “ apprehensions ; and did not attempt
 “ giving the wretched father hopes of their
 “ recovery. His condition was pitiable
 “ beyond description : to be commiserated
 “ by every feeling heart, if compassion
 “ could reach him. His transports of
 “ grief are not to be related, nor are the
 “ tears he shed to be numbered. When
 “ he came to recollect himself, he thought
 “ of his wife, what she must suffer ! but he
 “ could not leave his children. He re-
 “ quested me to go back and calm her
 “ uneasiness as well as I could, and break
 “ this melancholy account to her in the
 “ tenderest manner possible.

‘ But,’ added he, recollecting himself,
 ‘ I know the account will kill her !—Asgill,
 ‘ it will destroy her !—Her Tommy was
 ‘ the joy of her heart.—Harry, my sweet
 ‘ Harry, was her delight.—Her life is
 ‘ wrapped up in them.—She will not out-
 ‘ live

' live this day.—There they lie, Afgill—
 ' See them! Who would think those eyes
 ' once shone so bright, that are now
 ' blinded by a mortal corruption? Who
 ' would think those cheeks were once
 ' fair and smooth, that are now encrusted
 ' with pollution? Those lips were once
 ' red;—red as the bud of the rose when it
 ' first bursts into light. — But who shall
 ' distinguish them now? — Oh, powerful
 ' God!' exclaimed he, throwing himself
 prostrate, ' avert thy wrath from my little
 ' ones: if it be thy blessed will, punish
 ' me. Heap woes, unutterable woes on
 ' my head, as much as human nature can
 ' support without sinking under them,
 ' and I will bear them without repining.
 ' But in the life of these helpless babes,
 ' that of their mother is bound: and shall
 ' they not fall together?

" His words were stopped by his tears,
 " and he remained almost lifeless on the
 " floor. We raised him up, and in vain
 " en-

“endeavoured to divert him from the resolution he had formed of staying with the children.

“Nothing shall move me from them,” said he: “I will hover over my poor little babes; I will receive their last breath, if they must die, and accompany their innocent souls to the regions of happiness.”

“He spoke with such a wildness in his countenance and manner, as greatly alarmed me, and I feared the consequence. However, I left him under the care of one physician, and the other went with me to town, where I imagined his attendance would be necessary. My apprehensions were too well grounded. The indiscreet zeal of a domestic, who could not disobey her commands, had told Mrs. Harper of the childrens danger; and while she was preparing to go see them, was seized with the pains of labour. The distraction of her mind added to her natural pangs; and the physicians
“and

“and attendants all agreed she was in a
“dangerous way.—What was to be done?
“With the best wishes for the welfare of
“this unhappy pair; with a heart deeply
“interested in every thing that concerned
“them; yet I could not visit Mrs. Har-
“per, or if I had, I could not have al-
“leviated her distress. If I returned to
“her husband I must unavoidably aug-
“ment his affliction, by the account of his
“wife’s situation. I knew not what to do,
“or how to act. In hopes, however, of
“receiving more favourable tidings, I
“waited for some time; but she grew no
“better: on the contrary, they thought
“her worse than ever, and her physicians
“informed me, she frequently desired to
“see her husband. As I feared he could
“do his children no good, and that his
“presence might be of service to his wife,
“whom he so affectionately loved, I re-
“solved to prevail on him to return to
“town, and endeavour to comfort his wife.

“With

“ With that design I again set out for
 “ Eaton, and found him weeping over his
 “ expiring children. At the sight of me,
 “ he started from the side of the bed, where
 “ he was sitting, numbering their groans,
 “ and feeling every pang that nature, op-
 “ pressed with the loathsome disease, suf-
 “ fered in their tender frames. My face
 “ was an index of my mind, which was
 “ filled with the most poignant distress.
 “ He saw, and predicted the cause of it.

‘ Asgill,’ said he, before he would let
 me speak, ‘ you come from Adeline.—I
 “ know she is ill.—I was sensible the loss
 “ of her little ones would break her heart.
 “ My God ! my Father !—I will not pre-
 “ sume to arraign thy justice, nor will I
 “ murmur at thy decrees—but, is it not
 “ more than I can bear, to be deprived at
 “ once of my wife and my little ones !’

“ I endeavoured to compose him, by
 “ telling him, that though Mrs. Harper
 “ was ill, yet there was no danger ; and
 “ that

“ that it was much better she should not
 “ see her children in their present state;
 “ that she might make him the happy fa-
 “ ther of many more, that would supply
 “ the places of those he was in danger of
 “ losing.

‘ Never, Asgill; never shall I have a
 ‘ child whom I can love so well as I did
 ‘ those sweet infants, now in the jaws of
 ‘ death.—My first-born—must I lose thee!
 ‘ My darling Harry,—am I to be robbed
 ‘ of thee!’

The END of the SECOND VOLUME.